



User: Future
Password: Knowledge

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CREATE LASTING IMPACT

Region 25 in Figures towards



Rotary Regional Group 25 — Membership Tracking 2026 → 2027 Target

District	Members (1 July 2025)	Members (1 July 2026)	2026 Growth	%	Target 2026 (1 July 2026)	Towards goal 2026	Target 2027 (1 July 2027)	Current Membership	Towards goal 2027	2027 Growth	Current clubs
2420	2 286	2 366	+80	+3,5%	2 361	5	2 438	2370	-68	4	89
2430	2 339	2 541	+202	+8,6%	2 351	190	2 362	2573	211	32	110
2440	1 789	1 748	-41	-2,3%	1 880	-132	1 975	1767	-208	19	70
2452	1 965	1 926	-39	-2,0%	1 975	-49	1 985	1939	-46	13	95
2475	1 665	1 610	-55	-3,3%	1 673	-63	1 682	1615	-67	5	79
2482	1 775	1 803	+28	+1,6%	1 784	19	1 793	1830	37	27	87
2483	1 091	1 135	+44	+4,0%	1 096	39	1 102	1132	30	-3	69
2485	1 002	994	-8	-0,8%	1 040	-46	1 079	994	-85	0	46
TOTAL	13 912	14 123	+211	+1,5%	14 160	-37	14 416	14 220	-196	97	645

Rotaract 2025–2026, 2026-2027

District	RAC clubs 2025	RAC members 2025	RAC clubs 2026	RAC members 2026	Member net growth 2026	Avg/club 2026	RAC members 2027	Member net growth 2027	Clubs
2420	38	675	40	762	+87	18,0	720	-42	40
2430	52	721	58	806	+85	13,8	798	-8	58
2440	37	641	36	644	+3	18,4	663	19	36
2452	56	637	49	630	-7	12,3	605	-25	49
2475	8	67	7	53	-14	7,9	55	2	7
2482	28	189	30	226	+37	7,7	238	12	31
2483	27	232	21	201	-31	9,4	198	-3	21
2485	10	150	10	151	+1	15,1	151	0	10
Total	256	3312	251	3473	+161	13,8	+3428	-45	+252

President's Message

Olayinka Hakeem Babalola
Rotary International President 2026/2027

1.25 million is more than a number

Rotary has always been about people. Not projects. Not numbers. People.

Our goal of reaching 1.25 million Rotarians and 125,000 Rotaractors by our 125th anniversary in 2030 is also about people.

I bring up this goal again not because I expect the number itself to move you. Numbers rarely do. I bring it up because I worry that a goal this large can begin to feel abstract, distant from the everyday work of our clubs. I do not want that to happen. So let us talk, once more, about what is truly behind it.

I want to offer your club a simple exercise. Look back over the last five to seven years and find your best year. Maybe it was a year new members arrived and, more meaningfully, stayed. Maybe it was a year your meetings became something members looked forward to, rather than another obligation on a crowded calendar. Find that year. Then I ask you to **do better than your best.**

This is not a call to outpace the club across town or the district next door. It is never meant to be a competition between Rotary members. It is, instead, an invitation to hold ourselves to our own **highest standard**, and to rise to meet it again.

Why does this 2030 membership goal matter to me enough that I keep returning to it? Because behind every one of those numbers is a person whose life could be changed by this organization, just as mine and yours have been changed by it.



Rotary has given me friendships that have lasted decades, a sense of purpose I did not know I was searching for, and something that, in time, came to feel like an extension of my family. I suspect many of you understand this in your own lives, in your own way.

That **life-changing experience** is what we offer when we invite someone to join us. There are people in your communities right now who would find real meaning here, if only someone thought to ask them. So tell them **your story**. Tell them honestly how Rotary changed you, not just about the projects you led or the funds you raised but about **the person you became along the way**. Those stories have a way of reaching people when little else does.

If we hope to **Create Lasting Impact**, the kind that resounds for generations, we will need more people standing beside us to help carry our work forward. Let us come together, not only this month but every month of every year, to make Rotary stronger, more joyful, and more like the family it has always been to me.

Find your best year. Then let us be better than our best, together.

Director's Message

One Question Changed My Life

In 1976, I was fourteen years old and a street vendor in Uganda, helping to support my mother.

I was out of school not because I lacked intelligence, ambition or the desire to learn. I was out of school because **life** had placed survival ahead of education.

A **Rotarian** noticed me. *He asked why I was not in class.*

That question became the beginning of a different life. He took me into his family's care and supported my education, restoring something hardship had taken from me: the possibility of a better future. I returned to school, attended Namityango College, Uganda's first secondary school, and later earned a Bachelor of Statistics degree and a Master of Arts in Economic Policy and Planning, both from Makerere University.

Today I am an entrepreneur, I serve as Rotary International Director for Zone 22, and I am Chancellor of Nkumba University, one of Uganda's few chartered universities, among other responsibilities.

Whenever I stand before students or educators, I am reminded that my journey began because one Rotarian chose to see **potential** where others saw poverty.

Fifty years later, that question is still working, and it reminds me that education is a great enabler.

Education does not merely prepare someone to pass an examination. It gives people the **confidence** to dream, the **capacity** to make informed choices and the ability to participate meaningfully in society. It strengthens families, improves health outcomes, expands economic opportunity and builds more peaceful communities.

Emmanuel Katongole

Director Zone 21/22, 2026-2028



Literacy carries the same weight. A person who can read health information protects their family. A farmer who can interpret market prices makes better decisions. A mother who can read medicine instructions safeguards her child. A young person who can access knowledge gains power over their own future.

When **Rotary invests in basic education and literacy**, we are not funding one cause. We are **strengthening every other area of our service**. That is why, for us Rotarians, September is special. It is not simply another month on the calendar. It is the month we mark basic education and literacy.



Director's Message

Emmanuel Katongole

Director Zone 21/22, 2026-2028

Beyond the donation of books

Books matter. But lasting educational impact requires harder questions than "how many did we deliver?"

Before your club launches its next education project, sit with these questions:

- Are children learning in **safe and dignified classrooms**?
- Do the schools we support have **trained, supported teachers**?
- Are learners reading with **understanding**, or only reciting?
- Do **girls** have the facilities they need to stay in school?
- Are children with **disabilities** genuinely included, or merely admitted?
- Can **adults** who missed formal schooling **access literacy and practical skills**?
- Was this project designed with the community, so that its **benefit outlives our visit**?



Above all, pay attention

The Rotarian who changed my life first did something remarkably simple:

he noticed.

Somewhere in your community, another child is waiting to be noticed. Another learner has left school because the family cannot afford fees, books, meals or transport. Another young person is quietly abandoning a dream because no one has yet told them that their circumstances do not define their potential.

Across Zone 21, Zone 22 and every corner of our Rotary world, **Rotary must be present for that child.**

As September closes the first quarter of our Rotary year, let us measure our progress not by meetings held or projects launched, but by whether lives are genuinely being impacted. Let us ensure that the energy with which we began this year becomes measurable, sustainable action.

The education I received enabled me to rise. Its greatest value, however, lies in my responsibility to help others rise. When Rotary educates one child, we may be preparing a future entrepreneur, educator, public servant, university chancellor, or Rotary leader. We rarely know how far a single act of support will travel.

So let us open classrooms, open books, open minds and open doors. Because education does not simply change what a person knows.

It changes what a person believes is possible. It is an equalizer.

Emmanuel Katongole

Director Zone 21/22, 2026-2028

RPIC's Message

Mathematics, People, and That Little Word "Depends"

Dear friends,

Everything I had planned to write for September - Rotary's Basic Education and Literacy Month - changed the moment I received **Emmanuel's message**.

Thoughts rushed into my mind and swept away the carefully arranged text I had been preparing.

I suddenly realised how strangely **Rotary finds** us, **catches hold** of us, **changes us** and, at some point, **makes us remarkably close**, however different our childhoods and our paths may have been.

Emmanuel's — the boy who is now a Rotary International Director for Zones 21 and 22. Mine — a girl from Bourgas who is now RPIC for Zone 21B.

My family is a "**mathematical**" family. Some families are like that.

With two aunts who were mathematicians — brilliant and formidable — I probably had very little chance of getting involved in any other **philosophy of life**. By the age of ten, perhaps even earlier, I knew I would become a mathematician. I was completely convinced that I had made the decision myself. Looking back, I suspect they had simply been very good at **convincing** me.

All of this fitted quite happily alongside violin lessons, drawing, mountains of chocolate and walks through the Sea Garden.

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



Then came Slaveykov School in Burgas, the English Language School, Sofia University and the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics, followed by specialisations in mathematical modelling, risk management and financial mathematics. A few children, a few grandchildren — and, just like that, rather peacefully and without too much drama, 66 years went by.

As I often say, we shall carry on like this for the first 300 years. After that, we'll think about it.

So this month, I am not going to talk about education.

I am going to talk about mathematics. **Mathematics is a particular kind of philosophy.**

It is a collection of small pieces of wisdom about life that all of us understand in one way or another, even when we do not realise that what we are using is mathematics. It is part of our ability to make sense of the world around us.

Mathematics, People, and That Little Word “Depends”

It teaches us about more and less, about what is close and what is infinitely far away. It teaches us to look for connections, to compare, to test, to question. It even gives us that wonderful piece of wisdom that something infinitely small and something sufficiently large can, under the right conditions, turn out to be almost the same thing.

It depends.

Perhaps one of mathematics' great lessons about life is hidden in that simple “it depends” — **not to rush towards an answer before understanding the conditions.**

And this brings me back to education. Sometimes a person understands mathematics. And sometimes, far too often, they met someone in their early school years who convinced them that they did not.

So when we think about education, let us think about the people who help our children not simply to memorise knowledge, but to learn how to absorb it, build upon it and eventually continue learning on their own.

Let us think about teachers.

Because a teacher can give a child the confidence to say: “**I can do this.**” A teacher can take that confidence away as well.

In a sense, all of us are teachers today — parents, friends, leaders, colleagues, Rotarians. Through our words, our reactions, sometimes even through the way we ask a single question, we can awaken curiosity, give confidence or close a door.

This basic principle — **initial learning followed by the ability to learn independently** — also lies at the heart of **artificial intelligence**, something we talk about so much today.

What comes out at the end depends greatly on what was put in at the beginning, how it was trained and which models it was shown.

Perhaps that is why we **worry** so much about what will happen with **AI**. And perhaps, every now and then, we should remember that we have been asking exactly the same question for centuries when raising children.

But **school gives** us something else too, something we speak about less often — **people.**

At Slaveykov School, we were children from the same neighbourhood. Bulgaria had no demographic crisis then, Bourgas was a town of around 80,000 people, and almost everyone in our class lived within 800 metres of the school.

It was a wonderful environment.

And a wonderfully **diverse one.**

We had an entire class of Armenian children. If you do not know Bourgas, the city has a long **Armenian** history, and the Armenian neighbourhood was very close to us. We also had children with **Turkish** roots. **Austrian** roots too. Without anyone using grand words for it, **school was teaching us internationalism.**

Then came secondary school. University.

Mathematics, People, and That Little Word “Depends”

Life scattered us in different directions — professors, pilots, businesspeople, judges on the Supreme Judicial Council, people in science and industry. **And yet we are still together.** We meet at least twice a year - whoever can make it. The others simply know that **somewhere out there, those friends are still there.**

I have one friend, Momtchil, with whom I was together from preschool all the way to our final year at university.

Life took him from being a professor of physics into business and technology. Today he works for **Huawei Technologies Düsseldorf GmbH as Group Leader, Quantum Communication, in research.** Right now, he happens to be in Burgas.

And now I even know his exact job title.

The truth is, it has never mattered in our conversations.

We do not talk about titles. We talk about **the things that matter to people.**

Because there is something wonderful about being with people who share your values, people with whom you can sometimes simply sit in silence. Then one of you says something and suddenly you realise that, all along, you had been silent about the very same thing.

Rotary gives me something very similar.

The feeling of being beside someone who may have grown up on another continent, may speak another language and may have reached this point by a completely different road — yet when you begin talking about the things that matter, you discover that the same words mean something to both of you.

Perhaps that is why education is never only a textbook, a grade or a diploma.

It is confidence. Curiosity. People. Environment. Memories. The ability to ask questions and the courage to look for answers.

And back to mathematics.

If one encounter with mathematics in a child's early years can make them say “I can do this”, then it is worth creating more encounters like that.

Let us turn a problem from something frightening into a challenge. A competition from a test into an experience. Mathematics from a subject to be “got through” into a game for the mind that can bring real joy.

That was the idea behind something we started in Burgas a few years ago and called the **Rotary Maths Festival.**

Not simply a competition. A **celebration.**

We wanted children to think, to try, to struggle a little, to find solutions, to smile and, most importantly, to leave with a little more confidence in what they can do. To meet mathematics not through fear, but through curiosity. Not as a grade, but as an opportunity.

The first festival brought together around 400 children. The second was already much larger.

And then we realised that perhaps this idea did not have to remain only in Burgas.

If **mathematics** truly is a **universal language**, why not use it **to connect children, schools and Rotary clubs across different countries?**

That brought us to the next step.

This year, we are inviting clubs across Zone 21B and not only to become part of the third Rotary Maths Festival — first in their own communities, and then together in Burgas.

{And [here is the (invitation)].}
(turn next page 😊)

Нека три различни цифри са a, b, c (без нула). От тях Йосиф е написал всички **двуцифрени** числа, като се разглежда повторение (напр. 11, 22 и т.н.). Такива числа са 9 на брой:
aa, ab, ac, ba, bb, bc, ca, cb, cc.

Сумата на всички тези числа е:

$$\underbrace{(10a + a) + (10a + b) + (10a + c)}_{\text{с десетки a}} + \underbrace{(10b + a) + (10b + b) + (10b + c)}_{\text{с десетки b}} + \underbrace{(10c + a) + (10c + b) + (10c + c)}_{\text{с десетки c}}$$

Групирайки по $a + b + c$, получаваме обща сума

$$33(a + b + c).$$

По условие сумата е 363, т.е.

$$33(a + b + c) = 363 \Rightarrow a + b + c = 11.$$

Търсим три различни цифри от $\{1, 2, \dots, 9\}$ със сбор 11. Всички възможности са:

$$\{1, 2, 8\}, \{1, 3, 7\}, \{1, 4, 6\}, \{2, 3, 6\}, \{2, 4, 5\}.$$

Следователно първоначално написаните три цифри могат да бъдат някой от тези пет набора.

Rotary Maths Festival Goes International: An Invitation to Clubs Across Zone 21B

What if a Rotary club could bring together young people, schools and local communities through the universal language of mathematics – and then give the most talented students the opportunity to meet and compete internationally?

This is the idea behind the Rotary Maths Festival, an educational initiative launched **by the Rotary Club of Bourgas**, Bulgaria, together with the Maths High School “Acad. Nikola Obreshkov” – Bourgas, the Municipality of Bourgas and supporting partners.

After two successful editions in Bulgaria, the Rotary Maths Festival is taking its next important step: **becoming an international Rotary initiative**.

We would like to invite Rotary clubs **across Zone 21B** to become part of it.

From a Local Initiative to an International Rotary Project

The Rotary Maths Festival was created with a simple purpose: to encourage children to discover the excitement of mathematics, develop their logical and analytical thinking, and challenge themselves beyond the classroom. The first edition brought together approximately **400 students from the Bourgas region**. The second edition grew significantly, with **780 students participating in Bourgas alone**, alongside many more taking part in other locations across Bulgaria.

For its third edition, our ambition is to take the next step – **to connect young people and Rotary clubs across borders**.

The model is simple and designed to allow Rotary clubs to become active partners in the initiative.

Participating clubs are invited to organise a **local first round of the Rotary Maths Festival in their own city or country between 22 November and 13 December 2026**. Within this period, each partner club can select the most suitable date for its local community and work together with schools, mathematics teachers, universities or other educational institutions to host the competition. The highest-performing students from the local rounds will then have the opportunity to qualify for the **international second round in Bourgas, Bulgaria, currently planned for 17 April 2027**.

Please note that 17 April 2027 is a provisional date and may be subject to change. The final date of the international round will be communicated to all participating clubs and partners in due course.

One Competition – Many Countries

The international format creates an opportunity for Rotary clubs to do much more than organise another mathematics competition.

It gives clubs a practical way to bring Rotary into schools and to create meaningful partnerships with teachers, parents and educational institutions. At the same time, it gives young people an opportunity to become part of an international experience built around knowledge, friendship and cultural exchange.

Rotary Maths Festival Goes International: An Invitation to Clubs Across Zone 21B

The competition will consist of **15 problems of different types and levels of difficulty:**

- 8 multiple-choice problems;
- 5 open-answer problems;
- 2 problems requiring a complete written solution.

The official competition languages for the international round will be **English and Bulgarian.**

International partners will also have the opportunity to contribute proposed problems for consideration, creating an academic exchange between mathematics educators from participating countries and the Programme Committee.

An Invitation to Rotary Clubs in Zone 21B

We invite Rotary clubs throughout Zone 21B to bring the **Rotary Maths Festival to their communities.**

Participating clubs can establish partnerships with local schools and educational institutions, promote the competition among students and families, and **organise their first round on a date of their choice between 22 November and 13 December 2026.**

This flexibility allows every partner club to adapt the event to its local school calendar and organisational needs while remaining part of one shared international initiative.

The best-performing students can then continue their journey by **travelling to Bourgas, Bulgaria, for the international round in spring 2027.**

For the children, this means much more than reaching the next stage of a competition. It is an opportunity to travel, meet students from other countries, experience different cultures and discover that mathematics is a language they already share.

For Rotary, it is an opportunity to demonstrate what our international network can achieve when clubs unite around education and the next generation.

From Zone 21B to Bourgas

Our vision for the third Rotary Maths Festival is to see children competing in their own communities across different countries between November and December – encouraged and supported by their local Rotary clubs – and then to welcome the strongest participants to Bourgas for an international celebration of mathematics in the spring.

Bourgas, situated on Bulgaria's Black Sea coast, will provide the setting not only for the international competition but also for new friendships between students, teachers and Rotarians.

Our ambition is to build a model that can grow year after year: **local Rotary clubs creating opportunities for children at home, connected through one international Rotary initiative.**

This is how a project that began with several hundred children in one Bulgarian city can become something much larger – a network of Rotary clubs investing together in curiosity, knowledge and young talent.

Rotary Maths Festival Goes International: An Invitation to Clubs Across Zone 21B

Bring the Rotary Maths Festival to Your Community

We warmly invite the clubs of Rotary Zone 21B to join the third edition of the Rotary Maths Festival.

Organise a local first round in your community between 22 November and 13 December 2026.

Give young mathematicians in your city the opportunity to participate. And send your best-performing students to join us in Bourgas, Bulgaria, for the international round in 2027.

Together, we can turn a mathematics competition into a truly international Rotary experience – connecting clubs, schools, families and young people across borders.

From our local communities to an international stage – let us give young minds the opportunity to go further. Find out more about the Rotary Maths Festival:

<https://maths.rotary-bourgas.org/en>

You can contact us at:

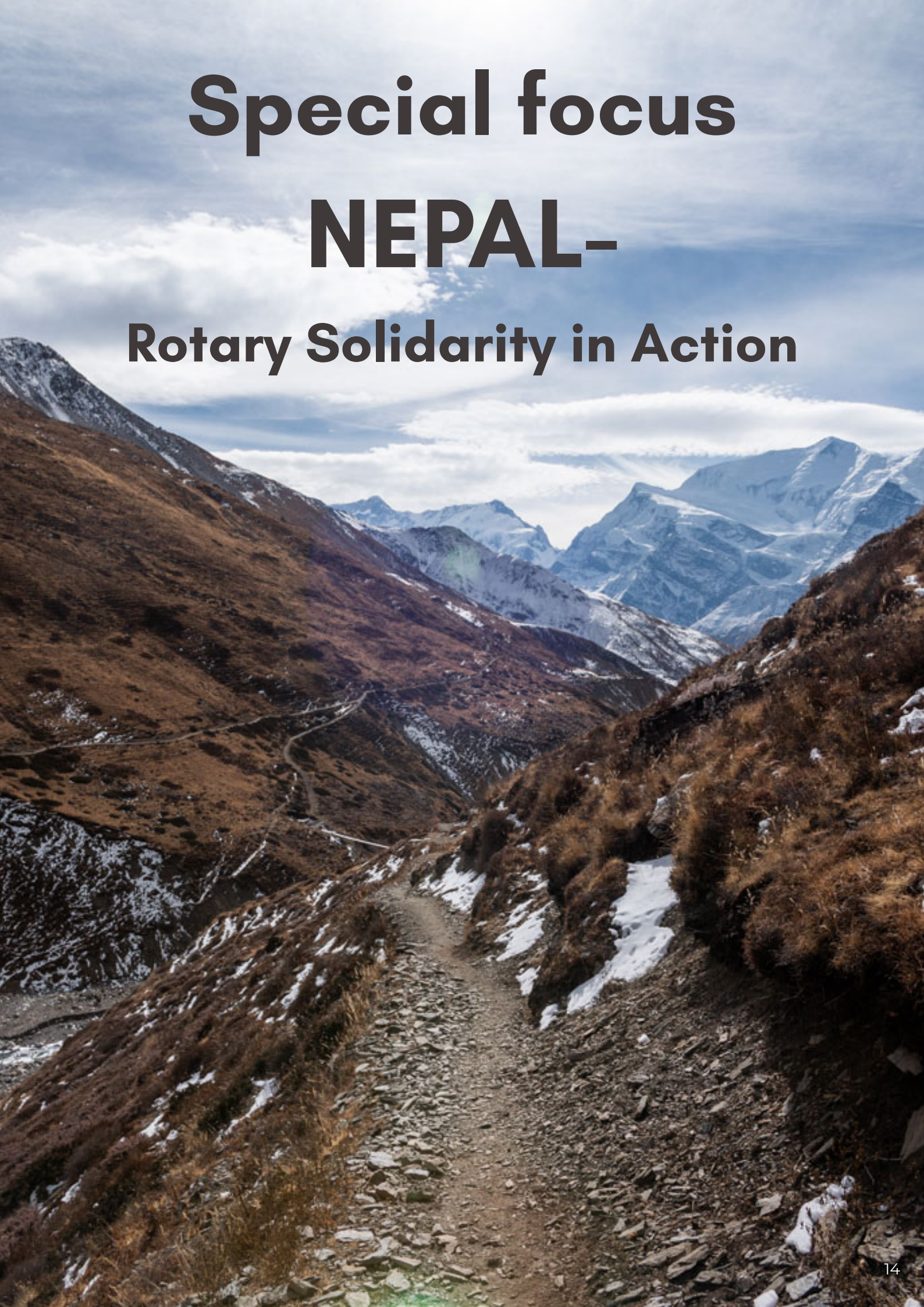
gergana.georgieva@rotary-bourgas.org

Gergana Georgieva
Rotary club of Bourgas
IT Committee Chair - D2482
ICC Bulgaria-RIBI, Bulgarian section
Chair



A vertical poster for the Rotary Maths Festival. The top section has a dark blue background with the "Rotary Club Bourgas" logo and "Maths Festival" text. Below this, the title "INTERNATIONAL ROTARY MATHS FESTIVAL" is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Under the title, a smaller line of text reads: "A Maths Festival for children of grades 1 to 12 organised in Bourgas, Bulgaria, by the Rotary club of Bourgas". The middle section features a photograph of a young girl with dark hair, wearing a blue shirt, sitting at a desk and writing in a notebook. The bottom section has a light blue background with white text and icons. It lists the "LOCAL ROUND" on "November 22, 2026" at "Different places around the world", and the "INTERNATIONAL ROUND" on "April 17, 2027" in "Bourgas, Bulgaria".

Maths Festival

A scenic view of a mountain valley. In the foreground, a dirt path with scattered stones leads up a hillside covered in brown, dry vegetation and patches of snow. The path curves into the distance. In the background, a deep valley opens up, showing more mountain ranges with significant snow cover under a sky filled with soft, white clouds.

Special focus

NEPAL-

Rotary Solidarity in Action

"Bad luck" today is a catalyst for human kindness tomorrow

My first visit to **Nepal** was in **2016**, a year after the **devastating earthquakes** that claimed thousands of lives. My second was in **April 2026**. On both trips, my goal was the same: **to experience the Himalayas up close**. I was ready for anything, except for meeting the local people who inhabit these mountains. Despite the recent tragedy they had suffered and the harsh living conditions in the mountains, **every single one of them was warm, calm, and quick to smile**.

The complete absence of vehicles was no obstacle to the lodges always offering rich menus and delicious food. Everything there is carried solely on someone's back - by donkeys in the lower elevations, and by yaks or human porters higher up. From an early age, **children are taught** how to carry baskets filled with supplies or **water**. Things we take for granted in our daily lives, like running water or hot showers, are pure luxury there. To keep tourists comfortable, that same water is carried on foot all the way from the river up to the lodges in the villages.

I'll also never forget a **little girl** who, having no toys, was **playing with a tiny beetle**. You can't imagine how **happy** she was. I can't even begin to compare our children back home - who have everything yet constantly complain and ask for more - with that little youngster.

Even though most of the population lives in difficult conditions, I never witnessed a single act of aggression, whether physical or verbal. I don't know if it comes from their religious beliefs, but if anyone ever needs true inner peace, I would send



them there.

That is precisely why **the news of the recent devastating floods in Nepal hit me so hard**. I looked at the photos of washed-out roads, swept-away bridges, and submerged homes. I asked myself: how do they endure it? How will they pick themselves back up when the elements take away the little they have, yet again?



"Bad luck" today is a catalyst for human kindness tomorrow

The answer might lie in an **ancient Eastern wisdom** that encapsulates their entire worldview:

Good luck, bad luck - who knows?

To us in the West, a disaster like this is pure "bad luck" and an absolute tragedy. But there, people view life through a different lens. **They know that nature gives and nature takes away.** They don't waste energy asking, "Why me?" Instead, they believe that survival itself is a blessing, and that destruction always makes room for a new beginning, for greater unity, and for human kindness.

Watching the Nepalese reach out **to help one another** in the mud once again - with that **familiar, quiet dignity** - I realize that while the storm may carry away their homes, destroy their roads, and wash away their bridges, it can never take away that little beetle in the girl's hand: their ability to be happy, grateful, and at peace, no matter what tomorrow brings.

I feel at ease knowing that Rotary will take the necessary steps to support those affected.

We can also do our part by donating to the Rotary Disaster Response Fund.

Galya Atanasova
Rotary club Shoumen
District Brand Officer, D2482 Bulgaria
Zone 21B Public image team member



Nepal in Crisis: How Rotary Is Turning Compassion into Action

When disaster strikes, communities need more than sympathy. They need action, resources, and people willing to stand beside them for the long road to recovery.

Nepal is facing a devastating humanitarian crisis following catastrophic floods and landslides that have left communities struggling to recover. Lives have been lost, homes and livelihoods destroyed, and essential infrastructure severely damaged.

For families who have lost everything, the emergency does not end when the waters recede. Access to clean water, food, shelter, healthcare and other basic necessities remains critical, while the difficult work of rebuilding homes, communities and livelihoods lies ahead.

At a time of such profound need, the Rotary family is responding.

Rotary: Service When It Matters Most

Across the world, Rotary clubs and members have a long history of responding when natural disasters strike. Through local action and international cooperation, Rotary brings together people who are prepared to help communities not only survive a crisis, but recover and rebuild.

In Nepal, this spirit of service is particularly important. Local knowledge and relationships are essential in identifying the most urgent needs and ensuring that assistance reaches the people who need it most.

But effective disaster response requires resources.

That is where **The Rotary Foundation's Disaster Response Fund** plays an important role.

The Disaster Response Fund: Supporting Communities After Disaster
The Rotary Foundation's Disaster Response Fund provides a mechanism for Rotary to mobilize financial resources following natural disasters.

Through **Disaster Response Grants**, Rotary districts affected by disasters can access funding to support relief and recovery projects. These grants can help provide communities with essential items and services, including water, food, medicine and clothing, while also supporting longer term recovery efforts.

This model combines the strength of a global organization with the knowledge and commitment of Rotary members on the ground.

It means that a contribution to the Disaster Response Fund can become part of a coordinated effort to help communities recover from the immediate aftermath of a disaster through to the longer process of rebuilding.

Importantly, donations to the general Disaster Response Fund are not restricted by donors to one particular disaster. Instead, the Foundation can direct available resources where they are most needed and where Rotary is able to support an effective response.

Nepal Needs Us Now

The scale of a disaster can sometimes leave us wondering what one person can possibly do.

The answer is simple: **we can help.**

A donation to The Rotary Foundation's Disaster Response Fund is an opportunity to turn compassion into practical support for people affected by natural disasters. Whether large or small, every contribution adds to the collective strength of Rotary's global network.

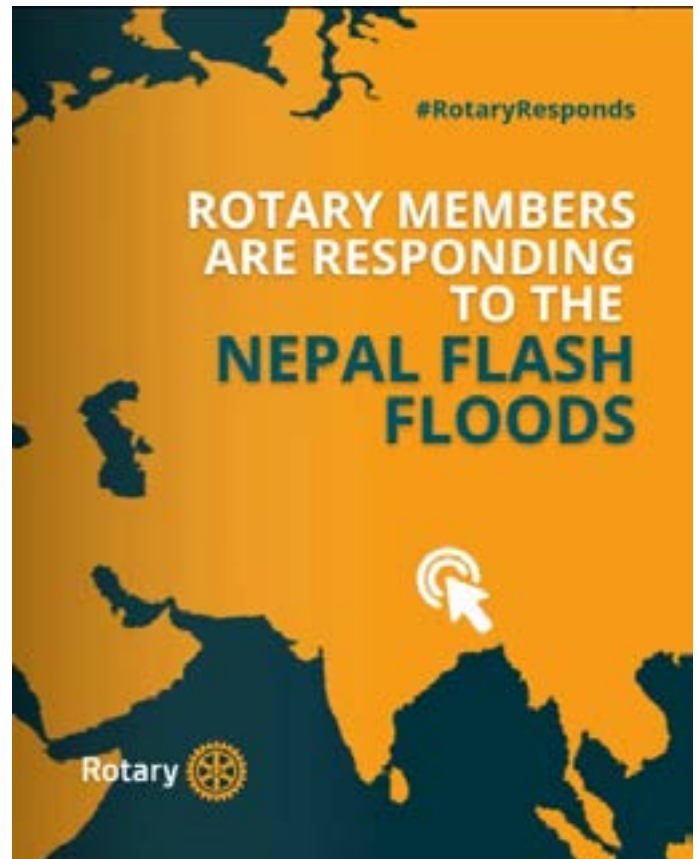
The people of Nepal are facing an extraordinarily difficult period. Their recovery will take time, determination and resources.

**Let us stand with them.
Help Rotary Respond**

You can support Rotary's disaster relief efforts by making a donation to **The Rotary Foundation's Disaster Response Fund.**

Donate today and help Rotary bring hope, relief and the possibility of rebuilding to communities affected by disaster.

Service Above Self.



Nepal Flood Relief Efforts

<https://www.rotary.org/our-work/disaster-response>

District 3292 in Nepal is raising funds to support response efforts after flash flooding. [Learn more here.](#)

The Disaster Network of Assistance Rotary Action Group (DNA-RAG) is raising funds for relief efforts in Nepal. [Learn more here. https://dna-rag.com/](https://dna-rag.com/)



Panayiotis T. Katrougalos
2026-2029 RFC Zone21b, Region 25

*Meet the
Gamechangers*

***CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT***



Rotaract Clubs Surpass US\$2 Million in Foundation Giving

Zone 21B Rotaract Giving Certificate Clubs | 2025-2026

District	All RAC clubs 1 July 2026	Giving Certificate clubs 2025-2026	Share of clubs
2420	40	19	47,5%
2430	58	18	31,0%
2440	36	23	63,9%
2452	49	0	0,0%
2475	7	1	14,3%
2482	31	4	12,9%
2483	21	2	9,5%
2485	10	0	0,0%
Total	252	67	26,6%

Source: 2025-26 Rotaract Giving Certificated Clubs; Zone 21B club totals supplied for 1 July 2026.

During the 2025–26 Rotary year, **1,193 Rotaract clubs worldwide received the Rotaract Giving Certificate**, recognising their support for The Rotary Foundation. The certificate is awarded to clubs whose members contribute a total of **at least US\$100** to the Foundation during the Rotary year.

In 2025–26 alone, the recognised clubs contributed more than US\$676,435. This represents an increase of 33.5% compared with the previous year's total of US\$506,696. The number of clubs receiving the certificate also reached a new record: 1,193, compared with 1,036 a year earlier.

Over the past six years, **Rotaract clubs** that have earned this recognition have contributed **more than US\$2 million** to

The Rotary Foundation. Each club recognised for 2025–26 received a certificate signed by Holger Knaack, the 2025–26 Chair of The Rotary Foundation Trustees.

Behind these impressive figures lies something even more meaningful. Every contribution supports **sustainable projects** that improve lives and create lasting change in communities around the world. These results demonstrate **Rotaractors' growing commitment to the Foundation**, as well as their generosity, leadership and willingness to take meaningful responsibility for the future. They also show how many relatively modest contributions, when brought together through Rotary, can produce a significant global impact.

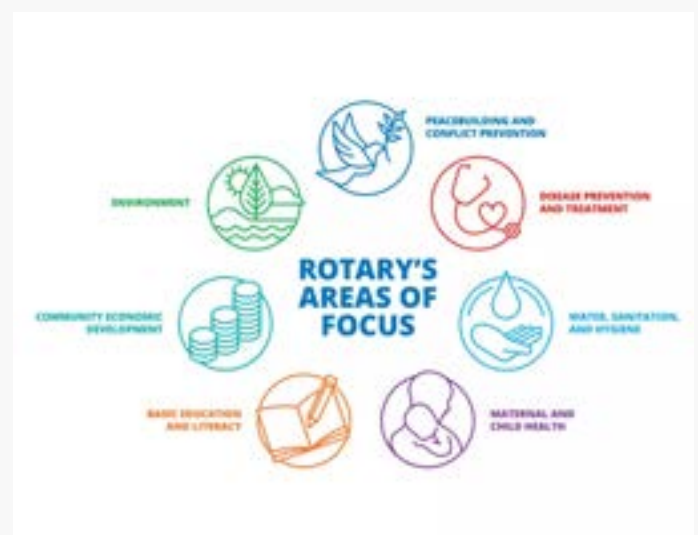
District	Club ID	Club name
2420	8828244	Barbaros Metropolitan
2420	8825409	Bebek
2420	8828155	Çorlu
2420	3661	Istanbul
2420	3639	Istanbul - Sisli
2420	3637	Istanbul - Suadiye
2420	212584	Istanbul Caddebostan
2420	3653	Istanbul-Beyoglu
2420	65238	Istanbul-Bostanci
2420	3651	Istanbul-Dolmabahce
2420	61507	Istanbul-Erenköy
2420	47232	Istanbul-Etiler
2420	47237	Istanbul-Galatasaray
2420	3643	Istanbul-Karakoy
2420	63442	Istanbul-Maslak
2420	3629	Izmit
2420	216115	Tarabya
2420	89067	Tuzla, Istanbul
2420	212172	Yeniköy

2430	3715	Adana
2430	81094	Adana Cukurova
2430	81090	Akdeniz
2430	90963	Alanya
2430	46057	Ankara - Anittepe
2430	3705	Ankara - Kocatepe
2430	3703	Ankara - Maltepe
2430	66965	Ankara - Tandogan
2430	217590	Ankara Beysukent, Ankara
2430	216337	Ankara Cayyolu
2430	3697	Antalya
2430	42599	Antalya Kaleici
2430	3663	Eskisehir
2430	77162	Gaziantep Alleben
2430	90081	Kizkalesi
2430	8827970	Konya Meram
2430	3677	Mersin
2430	42970	Toros

District	Club ID	Club name
2440	3683	Bornova
2440	3689	Bursa
2440	84274	Çekirge
2440	3693	Denizli
2440	90318	Didim
2440	87029	Efes
2440	80229	Guzelyali
2440	3687	Izmir
2440	3685	Izmir - Alsancak
2440	89461	Izmir Agora
2440	47666	Izmir Cigli
2440	91114	Izmir Ege
2440	79120	Izmir Ekonomi
2440	8826025	Izmir Naturel
2440	213482	Izmir Smyrna
2440	51212	Izmir-Bostanli
2440	47667	Izmir-Dokuz Eylül
2440	55322	Izmir-Göztepe
2440	3681	Karsiyaka
2440	43255	Konak
2440	89657	Mavisehir
2440	43575	Nilüfer
2440	69700	Urla

2475	8826446	Parnitha
2482	54957	Kardjali
2482	84466	Sofia International
2482	44070	Stara Zagora
2482	53081	Svishtov
2483	89224	Beograd Dedinje
2483	212455	Nis-University

The information is based on data provided by Rotary.Org
RPIC Tanya Georgieva





Meet the
New Clubs in
Zone 21B

Interact Club PEGASUS

Club Identity : ID 234268, D 2475, Greece

Club Name: Pegasus

Club Type: Hybrid

The Story Behind the Club

For the Rotary Club of Corinth, founding an Interact Club was a long-held dream that finally came to life through connections made at District conferences. To ensure a strong foundation, the club invited the children of active Rotarians to be its first members—youth who already lived and breathed Rotary's values. This journey was a true team effort, guided from day one by PDG Stefanos Anastasopoulos and experienced mentors. The vital spark came from Michalis Michailidis, Past President of Corinth and Interact Committee Chair, alongside three club presidents whose own teenage children stepped up to become the passionate founding heart of Pegasus.

Formal Facts

Pegasus launched with 11 founding members bridging Corinth, Athens, and Patra. Leading this exciting inaugural chapter are Konstantina Tsarmpou as the 1st President and Panagiota Tsiariktsi as the 1st Secretary.

First Projects

Pegasus immediately rolled up its sleeves. Partnering with the District 2475 the members planted trees in Vrilissia to leave a green legacy. They also donated essential digital and networking equipment to the 3rd Junior High School of Corinth, empowering local students with better tools to learn and connect.



Rotary Club of ATHINA ARMONIA

Club ID: 226872, D2475

Club Name: Rotary Club ATHINA
ARMONIA

Club Type

Rotary Club

The Story Behind the Club's Foundation

The Rotary Club of ATHINA ARMONIA was founded in 2025 with the vision of creating a modern and outward-looking Rotary Club, combining Rotary's enduring values with a dynamic approach to service, collaboration and meaningful engagement with today's society. The name "Armonia" reflects the philosophy upon which the Club was built: bringing together people from different professional backgrounds, experiences and perspectives around shared values and a common purpose — meaningful service.

From the very beginning, our aim was not simply to establish another Rotary Club, but to create an active community of people committed to turning ideas into action, building bridges of cooperation and making a positive contribution both to the local community and to the wider Rotary family

Formal Facts / Key Information

The Rotary Club of Athina Armonia was founded in 2025 and is part of Rotary International District 2475.

The Club's Charter President is Athina Rousi.

From its very first Rotary year, the Club placed particular emphasis on active member engagement, openness and collaboration with other Rotary Clubs and organisations, as well as on connecting culture with meaningful social impact.



First Activities / Projects

During its first year, the Rotary Club of Athina Armonia focused strongly on building fellowship and strengthening the bonds among its members, while at the same time developing connections with other Rotary Clubs and embracing Rotary's international dimension.

Among its first initiatives were:

- Foundation of the club

Participation in the Race of the Cure
Athina Armonia Cultural Evening with Maira Milolidaki

- Participation in the District's End Polio Now Event
- Rotary Cultural Trip to Egypt and Fellowship with Rotarians in Cairo
- New Year's Vasilopita Celebration at the Alekos Fassianos Museum
- Participation of Our Club in WOW Athens Festival for International Women's Day
- Athina Armonia member visits Rotary International Headquarters in Evanston
- A Cultural Evening of Music in the Presence of Rotary International President Francesco Arezzo
- Celebrating One Year of Athina Armonia
- Participation in the Panhellenic Rotary Conference in Rhodes
- Rotary Twinning: Athina Armonia & Fiumicino Portus Augusti
- Through these first initiatives, the identity of Athina Armonia has gradually taken shape: a new Rotary Club committed to meaningful action, collaboration, fellowship and positive impact.



Meet the Rotarians

***CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT***



Welcome to the Arch Klumph Society – Dr. Agron Abrashi, District 2485, Albania and Kosovo

It is with profound gratitude and great admiration that District 2485 announces a historic milestone for our region and the global Rotary family.

Dr. Agron Abrashi has officially joined the Arch Klumph Society – Trustees Circle, The Rotary Foundation's highest philanthropic recognition, becoming the first Rotarian from Albania and Kosovo ever to reach this distinction.

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

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

In last three years, Dr. Abrashi has already made many substantial one-time gift to The Rotary Foundation. But rather than stopping there, he chose to go further transforming a single act of giving into a perpetual one. Through his commitment to the Arch Klumph Society, he will help generate spendable funds year after year, sustaining projects and programs across District 2485 for generations to come.

His giving is guided above all by a commitment to the most vulnerable members of our communities: mothers and children. Alongside this, his philanthropic vision extends to youth education, the health and wellbeing of women affected by breast cancer, care

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
DPIC Nora Sigecca D2485 Albania & Kosovo



for the elderly, and environmental protection reflecting a belief that a better future begins with protecting those who are most in need of support today.

This monumental contribution will support opportunities within communities for generations to come, strengthening the capacity of both The Rotary Foundation and District 2485 to support sustainable projects, develop future leaders, and improve lives in the areas where impact is most needed

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

The official recognition ceremony honoring new members of the Arch Klumph Society from around the world will take place during the Arch Klumph Society Weekend at Rotary International World Headquarters in Evanston, Illinois, in October 2026. District 2485 also looks forward to celebrating this remarkable achievement locally on an appropriate occasion in the near future.

Zone 21B, along with Rotarians throughout District 2485 and beyond, extends its deepest appreciation, respect, and gratitude to Dr. Agron Abrashi. He serves as an inspiring example of generosity, leadership, and enduring commitment to The Rotary Foundation.

An Interview of DPIC Nora Sigeqa with Rtn. Dr. Agron Abrashi

The First Arch Klumph Society Member from
District 2485, Albania and Kosovo

It is with great pride that District 2485 announces a historic milestone for our region and the global Rotary family. Dr. Agron Abrashi has become the first Rotarian from Albania and Kosovo to join the Arch Klumph Society — Trustees Circle, The Rotary Foundation's highest philanthropic recognition. In this interview, Dr. Abrashi reflects on the journey, the values, and the vision behind his decision.

Q. Your commitment to The Rotary Foundation marks a historic milestone — the first Arch Klumph Society recognition from District 2485, Albania and Kosovo. What does this moment mean to you personally?

A. This commitment marks a personal life milestone as well. It is, in many ways, the crowning fulfillment of my life's mission, goal, and purpose: to serve, share, motivate, mentor, support, help, and empower the people in my community and around the world. Rotary gave me a framework for something I had always believed in that: a life well lived is measured by the good we leave behind - and this moment is the culmination of that belief, always striving for a lasting impact and a better future for those who come after us.

Q. A commitment of this magnitude is rarely a spontaneous decision. What experiences in your life and your Rotary journey led you to make this extraordinary commitment to The Rotary Foundation?

A. In my years as a Rotarian, alongside my activities and involvement in various projects, I made a substantial one-time cash donation, and I saw firsthand the difference that support could make. But a single gift, however meaningful, has a natural limit it helps once, and then it is gone. I wanted to take that impact one step further, to transform it from a single moment of giving into an everlasting one, generating spendable funds every year, for years to come, for different projects and programs. That conviction became a concrete decision through honest and encouraging conversations with Rosangela Merlino and Marco Nicosia from our Endowment/Major Gift Advisor office in Zürich, and with our District Governor, Florentina Dushi. Together, we agreed: joining the Arch Klumph Society was the way to turn a single act of generosity into a legacy.



Q. When you think about how you would like this contribution to be used, what kind of impact would you most hope it creates, and which people or causes are closest to your heart?

A. There are many causes I care deeply about... youth education, the health and wellbeing of women affected by breast cancer, care for the elderly, and protection of the environment among them. But if I had to name the cause closest to my heart, it would be the most vulnerable group in our society: our mothers and children. They are the two most precious, valuable, and beloved presences in our everyday lives. A mother's wellbeing shapes a child's future, and a child's future shapes the future of our communities. In that sense, I believe they are the only true guarantee of a brighter and better future for the world, and I hope this contribution will help protect and uplift them for generations.

Q. Why did you choose The Rotary Foundation as the vehicle through which you wanted to create this kind of impact? What gives you confidence that Rotary can turn generosity into meaningful change?

A. The Rotary Foundation is, in my view, the most reliable, professional, and efficient vehicle for creating perpetual impact and leaving a legacy for generations to come. It has a continuous, proven track record of accomplishment that of taking generosity and turning it into real, measurable, positive change around the world. When I looked at where my commitment could do the most good, and last the longest, the Foundation stood out clearly as an institution I could trust with something this important to me.

Q. When people hear about an Arch Klumph Society commitment, attention naturally goes to the size of the contribution. But behind every gift there is a personal philosophy. What would you want people to understand about the values behind your decision, rather than simply the amount itself?

A. I would want people to understand that the value of everything we do throughout our lives, every action, every commitment, every donation does not lie in its size, but in its intention, purpose, cause, motivation, and the impact it generates. It is quality over quantity. A small act done with sincerity and purpose can matter just as much, if not more, than a large one done without thought. What defines a gift is not the number attached to it, but the heart behind it.

Q. As the first Rotarian from District 2485 to reach this milestone, do you hope your decision might encourage other Rotarians in our region to think differently about philanthropy and the impact they themselves can create?

A. I truly hope my decision will encourage other Rotarians in my region and beyond to take that final step, on the verge of commitment, and join us at the Arch Klumph Society. Believe me, it is the best decision I have ever made in my life. Life is good when you are happy, but life is even better when others are happy because of you. So to every Rotarian considering this path, I would simply say: please, join us. The reward of seeing your generosity change lives is unlike anything else.

Q. Years from now, when the recognition itself is no longer the story, what impact would you hope this commitment has created? What would make you feel that this decision truly achieved what you intended?

A. Years from now, the recognition, the words, the names, and the congratulations will no longer be the story. Titles fade, and ceremonies are remembered for a season. But the perpetual, everlasting impact will remain, for all future generations: in the lives touched, the mothers supported, the children given a better start. Everything is temporary, but legacy lasts forever. That is what I hope people remember, long after my name is forgotten: not that I gave, but that it mattered.



My Journey from **Rotaract** to **Rotary**

Personal essays from across Zone 21B



My Drive from Rotaract to Rotary with Galya Atanasova

In **2005**, in my hometown of Shumen, several organizations, including Rotaract, launched a large-scale, **socially impactful project** within the city. They needed volunteers, and somehow, fate brought me together with them. Watching me work during the project, the Rotaract members **invited me to join them** once it concluded. I was 22 years old.

The next 8 years in the organization were - and will always remain - unforgettable. Membership taught me **responsibility**, **discipline**, and **tolerance**. It taught me **respect** for those who lack financial means, a home, or an education. I learned to **listen** even when words aren't spoken aloud. I cannot fail to mention the dozens of **friendships** formed, some of which endure to this day.

During my two terms as President of Rotaract, I made sure our sponsoring Rotary Club was aware of every project we undertook. For this reason, I frequently attended their meetings. There were also many occasions when, side by side with Rotarians and Interact, we made the world a better place. All of this brought me so much inspiration and pushed me to become a better version of myself.

After turning 30, I retired from Rotaract. For a number of reasons, I declined the invitation to join Rotary right away. For a few years, I fell into a period of limbo. Even so, I remained close to the organization, if only because some of my closest friends were members. And they were waiting for me to join them.

And so it went until 2021, when I needed to look for photos from my Rotaract years. There were so many **smiles** in those photos, so much positive energy and good deeds. I had forgotten how many **incredible emotions** it all brought me. I realized that I had **the power** to start helping again, to create good memories and make new friendships. **And just like that, I joined the Rotarian ranks.**



My Drive from Rotaract to Rotary with Galya Atanasova

And those ranks are so vast and diverse! The opportunity to meet extraordinary people is one of Rotary's greatest assets. It is incredible how, for instance, working in a museum as I do, it was precisely through Rotary that I met the founder of the Nepal Judo Association, or one of the engineers involved in the restoration of the Library of Alexandria in Egypt. At first glance, impossible connections, but at a second glance, through the lens of Rotary, something completely natural.

After a total of 13 years of service to the community, I came to realize that Rotary/Rotaract is a mindset. You either have it or you don't.

This kind of consciousness isn't something that can simply be taught. It isn't money or high social status that makes us Rotarians/Rotaractors, but our attitude toward other people and communities. As for the organization itself, it gave me the faith and understanding that nothing is impossible. It made me realize that as a Rotarian, I possess an incredible tool in it - a wonderful vehicle through which I can help not only my own community, but also those on the other side of the world. And that is truly amazing.

Galya Atanasova
Rotary club of Shoumen,
District 2482
Member of Zone21B Public image team



From Service to Purpose: My Journey from Rotaract to Rotary with Gergana Georgieva

When I look back at my Rotary journey, I don't remember the titles I have held or the meetings I have attended.

I remember the people.

I remember **the projects** that seemed impossible until we accomplished them together.

I remember **the laughter** after long evenings of planning, **the excitement** before every event, and the quiet **satisfaction** of knowing that our work had made someone's life just a little better.

And I remember discovering something I had never expected - **that while we believed we were changing our communities, Rotary was quietly changing us.**

My journey began in **2004**, when I became a member of **Rotaract**. At that time, **I had no idea that one decision would influence the way I lead, the way I make decisions, and even the way I see the world.**

Like many young people, I **joined** because I wanted to **meet** interesting people, to do something **meaningful**, and to be part of a **community** that shared my values.

I **stayed** because I discovered that Rotary is not just about organizing projects.

It is about becoming the kind of person who naturally asks, "How can I help?"



Every project became a **lesson**. Every challenge became an **opportunity** to grow.

Every success reminded me that the greatest achievements are never individual - they are always the result of people working **together** with a common purpose.

Looking back today, I realize that those early years in Rotaract were preparing me for much more than leadership roles. They were teaching me empathy.

Responsibility. **Resilience.**

And perhaps most importantly, they taught me that real leadership is not measured by how many people follow you, but by how many people grow because of your example.

From Service to Purpose: My Journey from Rotaract to Rotary
with Gergana Georgieva

Over the years, I have had the privilege of **serving my club** in many different roles - Treasurer, Vice President, Secretary, and later President of the Rotary Club of Bourgas.

Each role taught me a different lesson.

As Treasurer, I learned **accountability**.

As Secretary, I learned that **continuity** is what keeps an organization strong.

As Vice President, I learned the

importance of preparation.

And as President, I discovered that leadership is not about having all the answers. It is about creating an environment where others can succeed.

Today, I have the privilege of serving for a second year as **Chair of our District IT Committee.**

People sometimes smile when they hear "IT Committee," because technology seems far away from service.

But I see it differently.

Technology is only a tool.

Its real purpose is to **connect** people.

And connection has always been at the heart of Rotary.

Throughout this journey, one principle has guided every important decision I have made.

For me, the Four-Way Test is much more than a Rotary tradition.

It is my **lighthouse**.

Whenever I face a difficult decision - whether in Rotary, in my professional life, or in my personal life - I return to those four simple questions:

Is it the truth?

Is it fair to all concerned?

Will it build goodwill and better friendships?

Will it be beneficial to all concerned?



These questions have never failed me
In a world that often feels divided, they
remind me that integrity is not about
choosing what is easy.

It is about choosing what is right.
If more leaders asked themselves these
four questions before making decisions, I
truly believe our communities - and our
world - would be stronger and more
peaceful.

People often ask me what continues to
inspire me after more than twenty years.
The answer has always been the same.

Young people.

Education.

Because education changes everything.

An educated person has the confidence
to ask questions, the knowledge to solve
problems, and the courage to make
responsible decisions.

That is why **projects focused on
education and young people** have
always been closest to my heart.

When we invest in education, we are not
simply supporting students.

We are investing in future teachers,
doctors, engineers, entrepreneurs,
community leaders - and perhaps future
Rotarians.

One of the greatest gifts Rotary has given
me has nothing to do with projects or
leadership positions.

It is friendship.

Throughout these years, I have met
extraordinary people from different
countries, cultures, and professions.
Many of them have become lifelong
friends.

Friends who celebrate your successes as if
they were their own.

Friends who stand beside you when life
becomes difficult.

Friends who remind you that no matter
where you are in the world, Rotary always
gives you a place where you belong.
Looking back today, I realize that my
journey was never simply from Rotaract to
Rotary.

**It was a journey from enthusiasm to
purpose. From volunteering to
responsibility. From learning to leading.**

And perhaps the most beautiful part is
that the journey is still continuing.

**Every new member who joins reminds
me of the young woman I was in 2004.**

Curious.

Motivated.

Ready to make a difference, even without
knowing exactly how.

That is why I believe so deeply in
supporting Interactors and Rotaractors.

They are not only the future of Rotary.

They are its present.

They bring new ideas, new energy, and
new ways of serving our communities.

Our responsibility is not simply to invite
them to Rotary.

Our responsibility is to inspire them,
mentor them, and trust them.

Because someone once did exactly that
for me.

And that invitation changed the course of
my life.

If I could leave you with one thought
today, it would be this:

Never underestimate the power of giving
a young person an opportunity to serve.

One invitation. One project. One mentor.

One Rotary experience.

Sometimes, that is all it takes to change a
life.

It certainly changed mine.

Thank you.

Gergana Georgieva
Rotary club of Bourgas,
District 2482, Bulgaria

My Journey from Rotaract to Rotary

Arkan Apturahman

My journey from Rotaract to Rotary has been quite an interesting one.

From my very first year as a university student, I wanted to become involved in the organisation. However, I did not know anyone in Varna who could invite me to a Rotaract meeting.

Then, on **8 July 2014**, on the day of the famous **Brazil–Germany semi-final at the FIFA World Cup in Brazil**, I discovered that a friend of mine had previously been a member of Rotaract Club Varna Euxinograd. I asked her if she was still in touch with the club and, if so, whether we could attend one of their meetings together.

From **September 2014** until **July 2015**, I was a prospective member of **Rotaract Club Varna Euxinograd**. It was there that I was first introduced to the power of doing good through Rotary, and to the idea that through our projects we can make a real contribution to the development and well-being of our communities.

The first project I was supposed to take part in was “**Buy and Donate**”, but unfortunately, I was involved in an accident in December and was unable to participate. My first Rotaract project therefore became “**A Night at the Library**”, where we spent an entire evening with outstanding students at the Pencho Slaveykov Regional Library in Varna.

The next experience that truly made me feel part of the big Rotary family was the Rotaract PETS in Borovets,



together with the “Shemetna Varna” project, organised by Rotaract Club Varna Euxinograd. “Shemetna Varna” was an all-day competition held in Varna’s Sea Garden, with more than 200 participants. They had to complete more than 15 different obstacles in order to finish the challenge. It was through experiences like these that I began to understand that Rotary is not simply an organisation. It is a community of people who work together, build lasting friendships and make a positive impact.

In **2016**, after completing my studies, I returned to my home region of Kardzhali, where there was also a Rotaract club.

Once again, I had to go through the **prospective membership process**. In October, I became a member of the club, and **in March of the following year, I was elected President-Elect of Rotaract Club Kardzhali**.

During my years with Rotaract Club Kardzhali, we managed to deliver a number of successful and sustainable projects. Among them were “Buy and Donate”, “Kardzhali Reads” and “Plant a Tree – Give Life”, which was selected as a project for Rotaract clubs across Bulgaria.

Unfortunately, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, many clubs were unable to implement the project, which focused on planting trees and improving our surrounding environment. We also organised an International Peace Conference in cooperation with Rotaract Club Izmir Ekonomi, D2440, Türkiye.

One of our most creative projects during the pandemic was the cookbook Around the World with Rotaract – Cooking Book. Through this initiative, we managed to collect more than 215 recipes from 65 countries around the world. For me, it was a wonderful example of how, even during difficult times, we can create something positive that brings people together beyond borders.

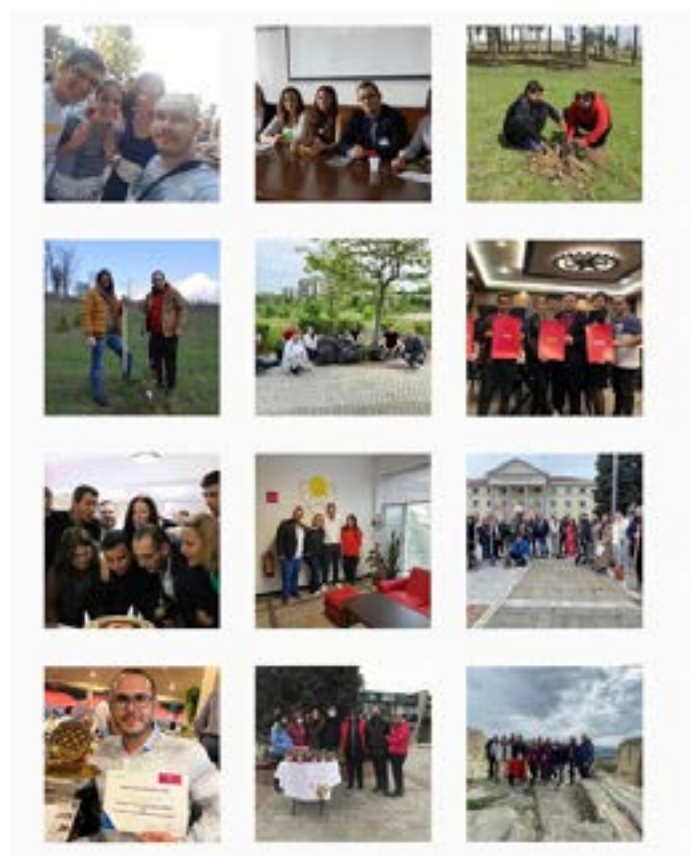
Throughout my ten years in Rotaract, my greatest personal achievement has not been a particular project or position. It has been my personal development and, above all, the people I have met along the way.

Thanks to Rotaract, I have built some of the best and most valuable friendships of my life. Among them are Stoyan Mihalev, whom I met during my years with Rotaract Club Varna Euxinograd, and Petar Petkov from Rotaract Club Kardzhali. With Petar, I shared many experiences during our Rotaract years, and today we continue that journey side by side as members of Rotary Club Kardzhali.

For me, these friendships are one of the greatest gifts Rotaract has given me. They are proof that the relationships we build through Rotary can go far beyond clubs,



positions and individual years of service, and can remain a meaningful part of our lives.



My Journey from Rotaract to Rotary Arkan Apturahman

Rotaract also gave me the opportunity to meet friends from different countries, to travel and to become part of an international community. My visits to Serbia and Türkiye, as well as my participation in REM Sofia, are just some of the experiences that have enriched my journey.

In 2024, I was invited to become a member of Rotary Club Kardzhali. Since then, I have been an active member of the club, serving as its Secretary for the past two years.

That same year was also a particularly difficult one for me on a personal level, following the loss of a beloved member of my family. During this challenging period, I was also selected as Assistant Coordinator-Elect for Public Image, succeeding Tanya Georgieva, who had previously served in this role.

This position gave me the opportunity to continue my development within Rotary and to contribute not only at club level, but also at district and regional level.

Throughout my time as an Assistant Coordinator, I have actively contributed to numerous district and regional events as a moderator, speaker and public image facilitator. I have moderated panel discussions and round-table conversations, delivered presentations on Rotary public image and storytelling, and supported the organisation of conferences, summits and leadership events across Region 25.

When I look back at my journey – from my first encounter with Rotaract in Varna in

2014 to becoming a member of Rotary Club Kardzhali today – I realise that this is not simply a journey from one organisation to another.

It is a journey of personal growth, friendship, leadership, loss, challenges and countless wonderful experiences.

And perhaps most importantly, it is a journey that continues.

Arkan Nihat Apturahman
Rotary club Kardzhali, D2482
ARPIC 2024-2027, Zone 21B

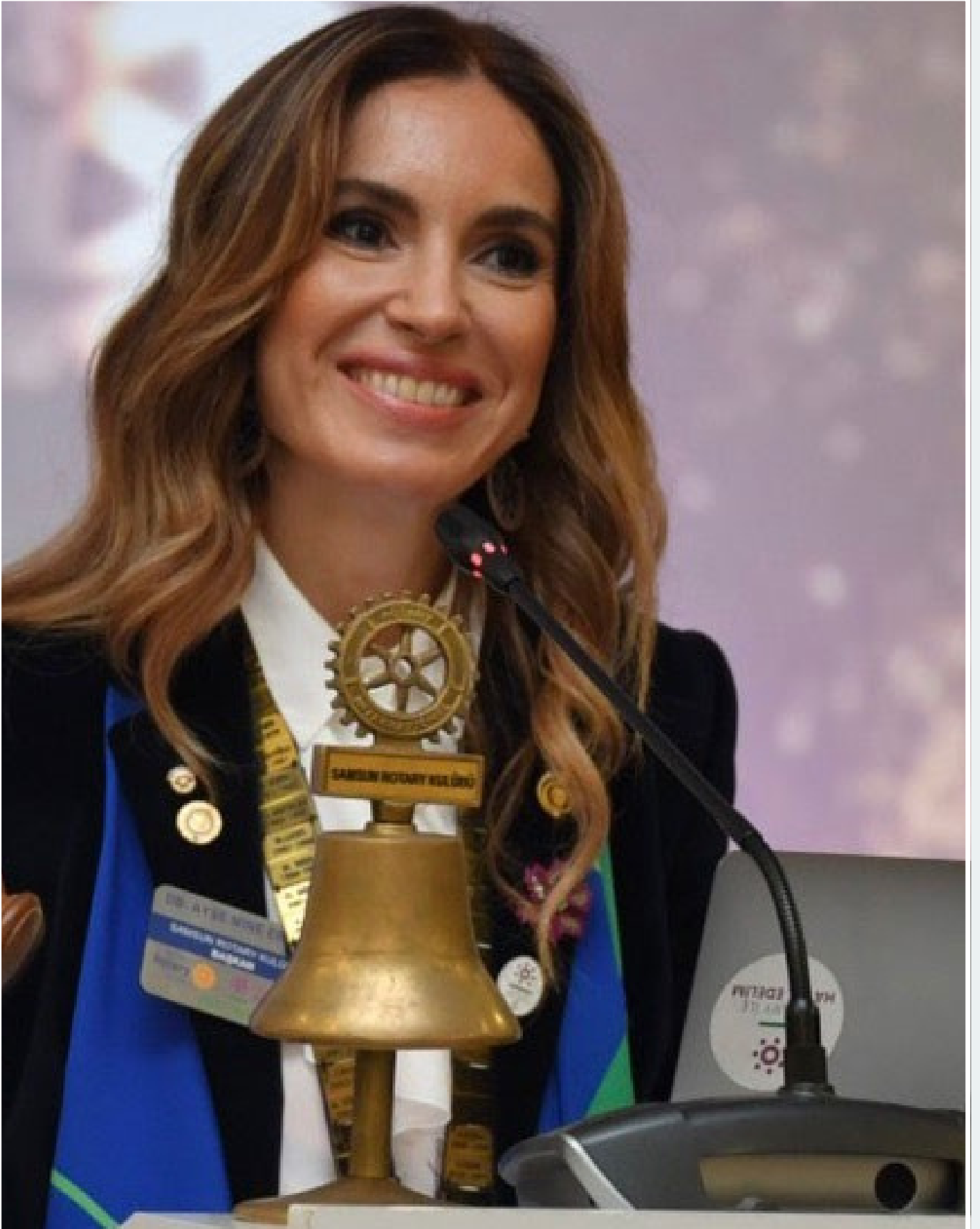


A wide-angle, low-angle shot looking up into the vast, ornate interior of the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul. The image captures the massive central dome, which is covered in intricate mosaics and frescoes. The dome's base is lined with a series of small, arched windows. Below the dome, the nave is filled with rows of smaller domes and arches, creating a sense of depth and grandeur. The floor is covered in a green carpet, and the walls are adorned with golden mosaics and frescoes. The lighting is warm and golden, highlighting the architectural details and the historical significance of the space.

Istanbul

District 2420

ARPIC Ayşe Mine Ergun
Rotary club Samsun, D2430



Cinema, Fellowship and Solidarity at Feriye

A room in a girls' orphanage in Istanbul will become warmer and more welcoming because 14 Rotary clubs chose to turn a summer evening into a shared act of care.

On 26 August, Rotary clubs in Istanbul came together at Feriye for a joint meeting and open-air cinema event. The screening of Selvi Boylum Al Yazmalım, one of the unforgettable works of Turkish cinema, brought Rotarians, guests and supporters together around a meaningful purpose.

The participating clubs included Taksim, Beyoğlu, Beylerbeyi, Dolmabahçe, Equal and Accessible Life, Göksu, Fenerbahçe, Give a Voice to Education, Barbaros Metropolitan, Breath for Women, Bebek, Fatih, Ömerli and Kız Kulesi Rotary Clubs.

The funds raised will be used to furnish a room in a girls' orphanage in Istanbul, helping create a warm living space where children can feel safer, more comfortable and more hopeful.



The event was attended by District 2420 Governor Erden Gökmen, Past District Governor Müfit Ülke and his wife Sema Ülke, District Governor 2027–2028 Tolga Bostancı, Assistant Governors, District Officers, Rotarians and friends. At Feriye, cinema became fellowship, fellowship became solidarity, and solidarity became lasting impact.

Based on:

<https://yasam.rotary2420.org/tr/guncel/de-tay/Feriyede-Sinema-Dayanisma-ve-Kalici-Etki-Ayni-Gecede-Bulustu/51/2560/0>



Almaty

District 2430



Our RYLA Story

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
ARPIC Serdar Aydin

Some stories begin without knowing exactly where they will lead. You simply believe wholeheartedly, find a little courage, and if you are fortunate enough to have wonderful people beside you who share the same excitement, you set out on the journey together and that is exactly how our 178th RYLA story began.

This RYLA is the first RYLA ever held in Bilecik, and also the very first RYLA organized by the Rotary Club of Bilecik. That is why it holds such a special place in my heart. As the charter president of our club, having the courage to take on something we had never done before; imagining and planning three days that could touch the lives of young people from the ground up, and finally seeing that dream come to life, is a feeling that is difficult to put into words.

At the beginning, we had so much excitement and just as many questions. There were moments when we asked, “Can we really do this?”

And others when we wondered, “Will we get everything done in time?”

But each time, I looked at my team. Where one person left off, another stepped in. When one of us grew tired, someone else carried on. Ideas multiplied, phone calls were made, preparations continued, and sometimes last-minute solutions had to be found and in the end, I realized something very important:

This RYLA was not created by one person. It was truly created by a team.

Perhaps, along the way, we ourselves rediscovered one of the most beautiful lessons about leadership—the very lesson we were trying to share with our young participants. Leadership is not about doing everything on your own. It is about walking together, trusting one another, stepping up when responsibility calls, and coming together wholeheartedly around a shared dream.



Our RYLA Story

Looking back today, the 178th RYLA is much more than a three-day program to me. It is a beautiful first for the Rotary Club of Bilecik—a moment when we said, “We can do this too,” found the courage to try, and succeeded together. While telling our young participants, “Believe in Yourself, Be a Leader!”, we were actually living those very words in our own story.

We believed.
We dared.
We worked together.
And we made it happen.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to my wonderful team, who contributed at every stage of this journey; to our Rotary family, who believed in us and supported us; to our valued speakers and trainers; and, of course, to the young participants who made the 178th RYLA truly unforgettable.

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
ARPIC Serdar Aydin

L They say you never forget your firsts. I know I will never forget our first RYLA. Because behind this RYLA lies not only hard work, but also friendship, solidarity, courage, and an incredible team spirit and perhaps there is one sentence that tells our RYLA story better than any other:

We encouraged young people to believe in themselves; and along the way, by believing in one another, we discovered just how much we could achieve together.

Rtn. Özge Öztürk
Rotary Club of Bilecik
2025–2026 Club President



Interactive Boards for Rural Schools in Kazakhstan

More than 1,000 students in the Zhansugurov rural district of Kazakhstan will now have access to modern interactive learning tools every year through a joint project of Rotary Club Almaty and Rotary Jeju Noble from the Republic of Korea.

In August 2026, the two clubs signed a memorandum of cooperation and delivered 12 interactive boards to four rural schools. The project was designed not only to provide new equipment, but also to ensure that it becomes a real working tool in the classroom.

That is why 25 teachers took part in a three-day practical training programme delivered by certified specialists from the Centre of Pedagogical Excellence.

During the training, they learned how to integrate the interactive boards into lessons and use them to make learning more engaging for students.

The project was led by Gaukhara Batalova and reflects the continuing partnership between Rotary Club Almaty and Rotary Jeju Noble. For Rotary Club Almaty, it is also part of a wider focus on education, human capital, measurable impact and long-term community development. This initiative shows how international Rotary friendship can become practical local impact: four schools gained modern technology, teachers gained new skills, and students gained new opportunities to learn.

Based on:

<https://businessfm.kz/society/rotary-club-almaty-i-rotary-jeju-noble-peredali-interaktivnye-doski-chetyryom-shkolam-selskogo-okruga-zhansugurov>



Handmade Solidarity Supports Education in Samsun

For one week in Samsun, **handmade work became a visible expression of solidarity, dignity and hope for the future.**

From 3 to 9 August 2026, Samsun Kızılırmak Rotary Club organised the 2nd Republic Women's Handicrafts Market at Türk-İş Beach. The initiative brought women producers, local partners and visitors together around one meaningful purpose: to support women's labour while raising funds for scholarships for female students.

Throughout the week, visitors could discover handmade products created with skill, patience and care — knitted and embroidered items, natural products, jewellery, accessories and decorative crafts. For the women taking part, the market was not only a place to sell their work. It was a space where their creativity became visible and valued by the community.



The project was organised under the leadership of Club President İmran Kılıç, together with Rotarians Banu Topuz Sezgin and Güliz Yeşildal, with the support of Samsun Metropolitan Municipality and Atakum Municipality.

The impact of the initiative reaches beyond the market itself. The proceeds will support scholarships for female students, connecting women's work today with girls' education tomorrow. This is Rotary in action: local creativity, partnership and solidarity turned into opportunities for the next generation.

Based on:

<https://www.yenigundehaber.com/el-emegi-dayanismasi/>



A Governor's Visit Filled with Connection in Malatya

On 12 August 2026, District 2430 Governor **Orhan Uludağ** and his wife Zeynep visited **Malatya Arslantepe Rotary Club**, turning an official visit into a **day of connection, culture and Rotary purpose**.

The programme began with visits to places that reflect the identity of Malatya: Aslantepe Mound, a UNESCO World Heritage Site; Gülen Yüzler Cafe, where children with Down syndrome work under the auspices of the Malatya Down Syndrome Association; and the workshop-exhibition of Yusuf Bayyigit, a traditional handicrafts artist recognised by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and awarded UNESCO's "Living Cultural Heritage" prize.

During the visit, Governor Uludağ met with the Board of Directors of Malatya Rotary Club to discuss projects planned for the 2026–2027 term. A joint meeting of Malatya Rotary Club and Arslantepe Rotary Club followed, opened by Club President Didem Gökçe.

One of the most meaningful moments was the induction of Assoc. Prof. Dr. İrem Bozbey Merde as a new member of Malatya Rotary Club.

The visit brought together heritage, inclusion, membership and future projects — a reminder that Rotary's lasting impact begins with people who meet, listen and act together.

Based on:

<https://businessfm.kz/society/rotary-club-almaty-i-rotary-jeju-noble-peredali-interaktivnye-doski-chetyryom-shkolam-selskogo-okruga-zhansugurov>



A Governor's Visit Strengthens Cooperation in Adana

The 20th Group Intercity Meeting and Governor's Visit in Adana became a meaningful moment of fellowship, dialogue and shared Rotary purpose. Adana Güney Rotary Club welcomed District 2430 Governor Orhan Uludağ and his wife Zeynep Uludağ for a gathering that brought together four clubs: Adana Güney, Adana Koza, Adana Seyhan and Adana Tepebağ.

The meeting offered an opportunity for the clubs to share their work during the season, present community service projects and discuss future goals. More importantly, it created space to speak about what can be achieved when clubs work together.

Each club came with its own experience and projects, but all shared the same direction: to serve the community, create sustainable value and make a lasting impact.

Governor Orhan Uludağ's visit brought encouragement, guidance and renewed motivation for the 2026–2027 Rotary year. The gathering also strengthened cooperation among the clubs and reminded everyone that Rotary's values — friendship, solidarity, volunteerism and service — become strongest when they are lived together.

For Adana Güney Rotary Club and its Rotary friends, the visit was a reminder that true impact grows through cooperation, trust and shared action.



Ankara Kent Rotary Kulübü

2.

ROTANÖYKÜ YARIŞMASI

“Yeni bir öykü yazmanın zamanı geldi!”

ÇEVRENİN
KORUNMASI



BARİŞ VE
ANLAŞMAZLIKLARIN
ÇÖZÜMÜ



HASTALIKLARIN
ÖNLENMESİ
VE TEDAVİSİ



ÖNCELİKLİ
7 ODAK
ALANIMIZ

EKONOMİK VE
TOPLUMSAL
KALKINMA



TEMİZ SU VE
HÜYEN



TEMEL EĞİTİM VE
OKURYAZARLIK



ANNE VE
ÇOCUK SAĞLIĞI



Çanakkale

District 2440



Ömer BAŞBUĞ, Zone 21 B Public Image Team
Rotary club Bodrum, D2440



Rotary Children's Writers Club Project

2025–2026 Term Activity Report and
2026–2027 Term Planning

The Rotary Children's Writers Club, launched by the **Bursa Kuzey Yıldızı Rotary Club**, was initiated to develop **children's reading and writing skills, support their imagination, and create a creative environment where they can freely express themselves.**

The first implementation of the project was carried out at our Community Partner, **Şehit Murat Atsen Primary School**. In the training sessions, held once a month from December 2025 to April 2026, author and teacher Hülya Biyan served as the volunteer trainer and project consultant, guiding the children.

The program primarily included fourth-grade primary school students, as well as interested third-grade students. The selection of this age group was based on the fact that children at this stage have acquired basic reading and writing skills, still retain the liveliness of their imagination, and have had limited exposure to the negative effects of the digital world.

A total of 63 students participated in the four-month training program, and all students completed the process without interruption.

During the training, **practical workshops** were conducted on:

- The basic elements of **storytelling**,
- **Character and plot development**,
- Using words accurately and effectively,
- **Expressing feelings and thoughts** through writing,

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
Ömer BAŞBUĞ, Zone 21 B Public Image Team

- **Observation and developing imagination**,
- The fundamental principles of creative writing.



Rotary Children's Writers Club Project

At the end of the training, students were asked to write an original story on the theme "Nature and Human."

The children's works were compiled under the editorship of Hülya Biyan and published as a joint book featuring the stories of all 63 students.

At a ceremony held at the school in June 2026, the books were presented to the young authors in the presence of the school administration, teachers, and members of the Bursa Kuzey Yıldızı Rotary Club. Seeing their own stories published in a printed book was one of the most meaningful outcomes of the project, significantly boosting the children's self-confidence and motivation to write.

Due to the high participation, uninterrupted attendance, and quality of the works produced in its first year, it was decided that the project would continue as one of the Bursa Kuzey Yıldızı Rotary Club's traditional and sustainable community service activities.

The second term activities of the Rotary Children's Writers Club will begin with a "training of trainers" program between September–November 2026, during which 4 trainers will be trained.

Between December 2026–April 2027, monthly student training sessions are planned. At the end of the training process, it has been decided to publish the children's works in a second printed book.



Rotary Children's Writers Club Project

The implementation of the project in its first year cost approximately USD 600. For the second year, a budget of USD 1,500 has been planned to expand the scope of training and reach more children.

The Rotary Children's Writers Club is embraced by all members of the Bursa Kuzey Yıldızı Rotary Club as a sustainable educational project that encourages

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children not only to read books, but also to think, dream, create, and write their own stories. In the coming years, the goal is to further develop the project, expand it to different schools, and enable more children to write their own stories.

Kuzey Yıldızı Rotary Club



Three Districts, One Rotary Spirit

Hosted by the Bodrum Rotary Club, the Fellowship Evening held at Savor with our friends from Rotary Districts 2440, 2420, and 2430 turned into a truly special gathering that once again reminded all of us of Rotary's spirit of friendship and solidarity that transcends borders.

The evening was honored by the presence of former Chief of General Staff İlker Başbuğ, Bodrum Deputy Mayor Emel Çakaloğlu and her spouse, Past District Governors, and Rotary friends who came from different districts to join this wonderful gathering.

It was a special night where we experienced the joy of coming together around the same values, building new friendships, and strengthening existing bonds. Through conversation, solidarity, and the Rotary spirit, we shared all of it together in Bodrum's unique atmosphere.

Three districts, many clubs, one shared value: Rotary fellowship.

In addition, by joining the event, our friends also supported education. Thanks to the contributions of those who attended, we took one more step together to meet the needs of Yeniköy Primary School.

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Karia Rotary Club Brings Joy and Hope to Children at LÖSEV

On Sunday, August 9, 2026, members of Karia Rotary Club held an origami workshop for 56 children aged 7–9 and their mothers at the LÖSEV Holiday Village in Bodrum Turgutreis.

The workshop was organized to commemorate the 81st anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. Led by Origami Instructor Dr. Seda Altay and Rotarian Yelda Şişman, the participants learned how to fold the “Cranes”, which have become a universal symbol of peace and hope.

The aim of the event was to provide children with leukemia who were staying at the LÖSEV Holiday Village while continuing their treatment with an enjoyable and uplifting experience.

Together, the children and their mothers folded paper cranes with great enthusiasm, joy, and laughter, creating a warm and memorable day filled with creativity, friendship, and hope.



RYLA “Environment in the Digital Age” Successfully Completed

The first RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) program of the Rotary District 2440 2026–2027 Rotary year was held at Izmir University of Economics from August 14–16, 2026, under the theme “Environment in the Digital Age.”

Organized jointly by the Kordon, Buca, Urla, E-Club, and Göztepe Rotary Clubs under the umbrella of Group 13, the RYLA brought together 25 young participants and 9 trainers. The participants stayed in the university dormitories for two nights and took part in a variety of educational sessions and activities focusing on leadership, the environment, technology, and sustainability.

The main objective of the program was to help young people develop a perspective on how the opportunities offered by the digital age can be used to address environmental challenges, while strengthening their leadership skills and encouraging them to develop projects that create social impact. Throughout the program, participants not only received training but also developed environmental project ideas, gaining valuable experience in teamwork, creativity, and leadership.

One of the key objectives of the RYLA was to select two successful participants to join the scholarship team and to connect the environmental projects developed by the young participants with Rotary’s sustainability goals. In this respect, the program was successfully completed in alignment with the priorities of Rotary International President Olayinka Hakem Babalola and Rotary District 2440 Governor Aylin Olut Ötken, with a strong focus on youth participation and the development of tangible project outcomes. Over the two-day program, participants shared knowledge, experiences, teamwork, and friendship. Their enthusiasm for environmental issues and their commitment to developing projects for the future were particularly inspiring. With its theme of “Environment in the Digital Age,” the RYLA represented an important step toward

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self Ömer BAŞBUĞ, Zone 21 B Public Image Team

empowering young people to become not only the leaders of today but also the environmental and community leaders of tomorrow. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Kordon, Buca, Urla, E-Club, and Göztepe Rotary Clubs of Group 13, the District RYLA Committee, the Assistant Governor of Group 13, our dedicated trainers, and all participants for their valuable contributions, commitment, and efforts in making this meaningful program possible.

We hope that the “Environment in the Digital Age” RYLA will be the beginning of new projects, lasting friendships, and meaningful steps toward a more sustainable future led by our young people.

13.group of Assistant Governor



Rotary Children's Authors club Project

What happens when children are given the confidence not only to read stories, but to create their own? They discover that their imagination has a voice—and that their ideas are worth sharing.

The Rotary Children's Authors Club, initiated by the Rotary Club of Bursa Northern Star, is doing exactly that: helping children develop reading and writing skills while encouraging imagination, creativity and confident self-expression.

The project was first implemented at Şehit Murat Atsen Primary School, a valued community partner. Between December 2025 and April 2026, author and teacher Hülya Biyan volunteered as trainer and project adviser, delivering monthly creative writing sessions for fourth-grade pupils and interested third-grade students.

A total of 63 children took part, with every participant completing the programme. Through practical activities, they explored storytelling, character and plot development, effective use of language, emotional expression, observation, imagination and the principles of creative writing. The defining moment came when the children were invited to write an original story on the theme "Nature and Humanity". Their stories were edited by Hülya Biyan and published together in a book featuring the work of all 63 young authors. At a ceremony in June 2026, the children received copies of the book bearing their own names and stories. Seeing their ideas transformed from classroom exercises into a real publication provided a powerful boost to their confidence and motivation.

The project's impact is already extending beyond its first year. Because of the strong participation and quality of the work, the Rotary Children's Authors Club has been

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self Ömer BAŞBUĞ, Zone 21 B Public Image Team

adopted as a sustainable community service initiative of the club.

The second phase will begin with Training for Trainers from September to November 2026, preparing four instructors to support the programme's expansion. Monthly student sessions will then run from December 2026 to April 2027, culminating in another printed collection of children's stories.

With an investment of approximately US\$600 in its first year and a planned US\$1,500 budget for the second, the project demonstrates that lasting impact does not always require large resources. Sometimes, it begins by giving a child the tools, encouragement and opportunity to say: "This is my story."

Rotary's vision is to take the programme to more schools and reach more children—helping a new generation not only to read, but to think, dream, create and write their own future.





Armenia



Bahrain



Cyprus



Georgia



Jordan



UAE



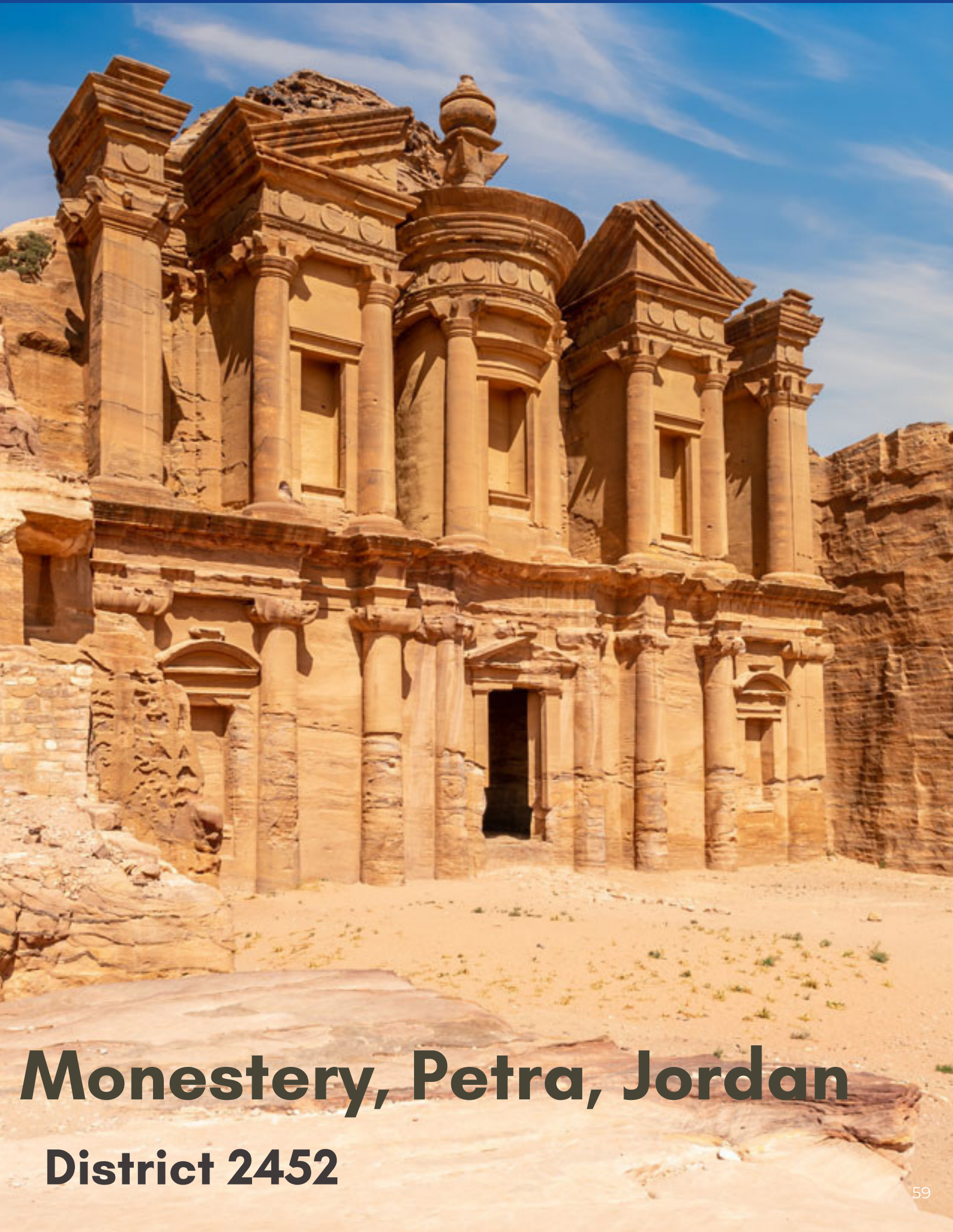
Lebanon



Palestine



Sudan



Monastery, Petra, Jordan

District 2452

ARPIC Faisal Juma
Rotary club Salmaniya, D2452



United for a Stronger Rotary Year: District 2452 Lebanon Launches 2026–2027

A new Rotary year begins with a shared vision, renewed energy and a commitment to turn ideas into meaningful action. On 5 August 2026, Rotary clubs from across Lebanon came together at Le Royal Hotel, marking an inspiring start to the 2026–2027 Rotary year in the presence of **District Governor May Monla**.

The District 2452 **General Lebanon Clubs' Meeting** provided an important opportunity to present the district's priorities, plans and areas of focus for the year ahead. Speakers shared insights into upcoming projects and initiatives designed to address community needs and create meaningful, lasting impact. Beyond planning, the gathering highlighted one of Rotary's greatest strengths: connection. Bringing clubs together in one place created an opportunity for Rotarians from across Lebanon to exchange ideas, strengthen relationships and renew the sense of fellowship that turns individual efforts into collective action.

The informal atmosphere also allowed members to reconnect as friends and colleagues, demonstrating that Rotary fellowship is not separate from service—it is one of the foundations that makes effective service possible.

The meeting concluded on a particularly joyful note as participants celebrated the birthdays of DS Samar Saab and Dr Joseph Rachkidi with a birthday cake and warm wishes.

As District 2452 Lebanon begins a new year of service, the gathering sets a positive tone for the months ahead: stronger collaboration, purposeful projects and a shared commitment to improving lives. By bringing clubs together around common goals, Rotary creates the conditions for local initiatives to grow into wider community impact. The event was made possible through the leadership of DG May Monla and the dedicated team behind its organisation, whose efforts helped create a meaningful beginning to another year of Service Above Self.



Service Knows No Borders: Rotaract Connects Communities Across Continents - Rotaract Club of Sahel Metn

Service becomes even more powerful when it **brings people together across borders**. A recent **collaboration** between **Rotaract** members in **Lebanon and Canada** demonstrated how a shared commitment to helping others can turn an international connection into meaningful action.

Andrew El Khoury, a member of the Rotaract **Club of Sahel Metn**, joined the Rotaract Club of Île de Montréal in Canada for a community service project supporting Dans La Rue, an organisation dedicated to **helping young people experiencing homelessness**.

Together, the volunteers prepared approximately 1,080 hot-dogs, providing practical support to young people facing difficult circumstances. While the activity addressed an immediate need, the experience offered something equally valuable: **an opportunity to connect, learn and better understand the challenges faced by vulnerable young people in the local community**.

During the visit, Andrew also toured Dans La Rue's facilities and gained a deeper insight into the organisation's work and its long-term efforts to support young people and help them build more secure futures.

The collaboration highlights the **unique strength of the Rotaract network**. Although members may belong to different clubs and live thousands of kilometres apart, they are united by common values and a shared belief that positive change begins with action. For Rotaract, international fellowship is not simply about meeting new people—it can become a gateway to understanding communities, exchanging ideas and contributing directly to local causes. The experience in Montréal is a powerful reminder that Service Above Self knows no borders. When Rotaractors connect across countries, friendships become partnerships, and partnerships become opportunities to create lasting impact wherever help is needed.



The Rotary Club of Salmaniya organises plastic waste disposal to benefit Bahrain Association for Parents and Friends of the Disabled - D2452 Bahrain

What if something as simple as a discarded plastic bottle could help someone regain greater independence? The Rotary Club of Salmaniya, District 2452, has begun the 2026–2027 Rotary year by turning environmental responsibility into tangible support for people with physical disabilities.

Through the collective efforts of club members and partner organisations, RC Salmaniya has launched a recycling initiative to collect plastic waste and deliver it to the Bahrain Association for Parents and Friends of the Disabled. The collected materials will be recycled and sold, with the proceeds used to purchase wheelchairs for people with physical disabilities.

The project creates a powerful connection between two important community needs: protecting the environment and improving mobility and independence for people who need support. Rather than treating plastic waste simply as rubbish, the initiative gives it a second purpose—transforming an environmental challenge into a practical resource that can improve someone's quality of life.

The impact extends beyond the wheelchairs themselves. Access to appropriate mobility equipment can help people move more independently, participate more fully in community life and enjoy greater dignity in their everyday activities.

By involving members, partner institutions and the wider community, the project also encourages people to see sustainability as something practical that everyone can contribute to. Every piece of plastic collected represents both a small step towards a cleaner environment and a potential contribution towards greater mobility for someone in need.

RC Salmaniya plans to continue the initiative throughout the year, with the ambition of expanding community participation and increasing its impact.

The project is a simple but powerful example of Service Above Self in action: when communities work together, even everyday waste can become an opportunity to protect the planet, support inclusion and create lasting positive change.



Rotary clubs of Salmaniya and Seef Bahrain met with H.E. the Deputy Governor of the Northern Governorate- D2452 Bahrain

Lasting community impact is created when organisations come together around a shared purpose. By combining resources, expertise and a commitment to service, Rotary and its community partners can **respond to immediate needs while developing sustainable solutions for the future.**

The **Rotary Clubs of Salmaniya and Seef Bahrain**, together with **ISACA Bahrain and the Dawoodi Bohra Community**, recently met with H.E. Ali Rashid Maantar, Deputy Governor of the Northern Governorate, to explore opportunities for future collaboration and community service initiatives. As part of the visit, the two Rotary clubs jointly donated 38 school bags for distribution to local communities. The donation aims to **support students and families facing financial challenges** as they prepare for the new academic year, helping children begin their studies with greater confidence and dignity.

The partnership also looks towards longer-term humanitarian action. Among the initiatives being explored is the renovation of dilapidated homes in cooperation with the Northern Governorate. By **improving essential living conditions**, the project has the potential to provide vulnerable families with safer, healthier and more dignified homes.

The collaboration demonstrates the value of bringing together Rotary clubs, government representatives, professional organisations and community groups. Each partner contributes different strengths, creating opportunities to address community needs more effectively and sustainably. While the school bags provide immediate support, the planned housing initiatives represent a longer-term investment in family wellbeing and community resilience. Together, these efforts reflect Rotary's belief that meaningful service combines

compassion with practical action.

Through partnership, shared responsibility and a focus on sustainable solutions, the Rotary Clubs of Salmaniya and Seef Bahrain continue to demonstrate the spirit of Service Above Self—turning cooperation into action and action into lasting impact for the communities they serve.



Supporting Education, Empowering Students - D2452 Jordan

Every child deserves the opportunity to learn with confidence, dignity and the right tools to succeed. By removing small but meaningful barriers to education, Rotary can help create a more inclusive environment where every student feels supported and valued.

On 13 August 2026, members of the Rotary Club of Amman Petra distributed 50 school bags and stationery sets to students with Down syndrome at the Al Hadab Association for Down Syndrome.

The initiative forms part of the club's ongoing commitment to supporting education and strengthening communities across Jordan. By providing essential learning materials, the project offers practical assistance to students and their families while reinforcing the importance of inclusion and equal opportunities in education.

For the students receiving the school supplies, the contribution represents more than a school bag. It is a gesture of encouragement and solidarity—a reminder that their community believes in their potential and wants to support their educational journey.

The initiative also highlights the wider role Rotary can play in promoting inclusive communities. Education is a powerful pathway to independence, confidence and participation, and ensuring that children have access to the resources they need is an investment in the future of society as a whole.

Through simple, targeted acts of service, the Rotary Club of Amman Petra demonstrates that lasting impact does not always begin with large projects. Sometimes, it starts with something as practical as giving a child the tools they need to learn, participate and dream.

By turning compassion into action, Rotary continues to help build communities where every child has the opportunity to learn, grow and reach their full potential.



Ceremony held for the "Solidarity for Lebanon" Initiative - D2452 Lebannon

When communities face hardship, solidarity becomes more than a gesture—it becomes a lifeline. Through international cooperation and shared commitment, Rotary partners in Lebanon and Belgium have demonstrated how borders can never stand in the way of humanitarian service.

As part of the "Solidarity for Lebanon" initiative organised by Rotary International in cooperation with CIP Belux–Liban and CIP Liban–Belux, humanitarian assistance was officially delivered to the Lebanese Civil Defense. The aid, presented to Director General Brigadier General Imad Khreish, included medical supplies, hygiene materials and essential equipment to support Civil Defense teams and communities most in need.

The handover ceremony brought together representatives from both countries, reflecting the strength of international partnerships. Among those present were Dr Sanaa Hamzeh, President of CIP Liban–Belux; H.E. Walid Haidar, Ambassador of Lebanon to Belgium; Pierre-Louis Renard, First Secretary at the Embassy of Belgium; and Joe Kanaan, Honorary President of CIP Liban–Belux. Partners, supporters and representatives of several Rotary clubs in Lebanon also attended, including Rotary Club Akkar, represented by Past President Salma El Waraq.

Opening the meeting, Dr Hamzeh highlighted the importance of maintaining humanitarian solidarity and continuing initiatives that provide practical support to Lebanon. Participants also emphasised the value of cooperation and strengthened partnerships between Lebanese and Belgian organisations.



The Journey in Doing Service Above Self ARPIC Faisal Abdulrahman Juma

Beyond the supplies themselves, the initiative provides an important message of hope: communities are stronger when people choose to stand together. Supporting Civil Defense means helping those who work on the front line while also strengthening the capacity to respond to the needs of vulnerable communities.

The "Solidarity for Lebanon" initiative is a powerful example of Rotary's ability to connect people, organisations and countries around a shared humanitarian purpose. It demonstrates that Service Above Self is not limited by geography—and that when partnerships unite around compassion and action, support can reach wherever it is needed most.



District 2452 - Lebanon: Building bridges. Creating impact. Serving communities



Rotary continues to strengthen its role as a force for positive change in Lebanon and beyond.

During a recent meeting with His Excellency President Joseph Aoun, Rotary District 2452 Governor May Monla shared the vision, initiatives, and community-driven work being carried out by Rotary Clubs across the region.

From healthcare and education to humanitarian support, Rotary remains focused on projects that address real needs and create lasting benefits.

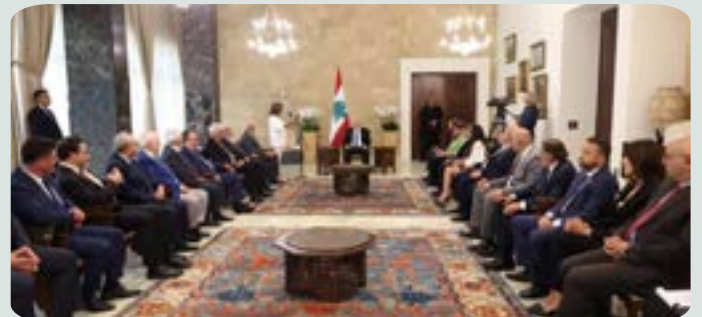
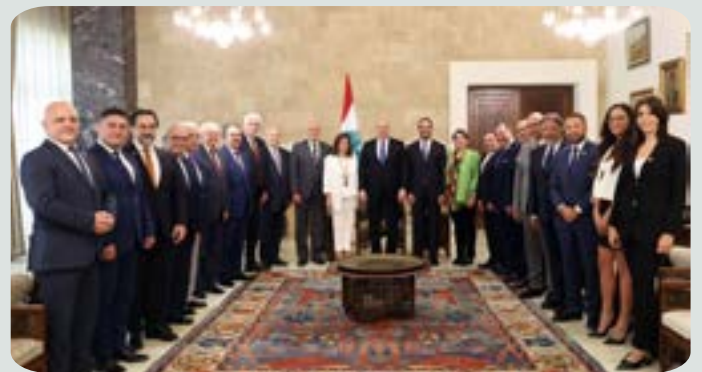
Among the initiatives discussed was the commitment to improving access to clean and safe water in more than 1000 schools, a powerful step toward healthier children, safer educational environments and more resilient communities.

The meeting also marked an important step toward the Rotary District Conference 2027 taking place in Lebanon on May 6, 7 and 8, 2027, with approximately 1000 Rotarians from nine countries expected to come together.

Beyond the conference itself, this gathering represents an opportunity to showcase Lebanon, strengthen international partnerships, exchange ideas, and celebrate the power of Rotary to bring people together through service.

Because when leaders, communities and volunteers work together, service becomes impact.

One Rotary. One purpose. One commitment to Service Above Self.



Public School receive Osmosis Water Filtration System

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
ARPIC Faisal Abdulrahman Juma



Access to safe drinking water is a basic necessity for every child—and a simple investment that can have a lasting impact on health, wellbeing and learning.

On 19 August 2026, the Rotary Club of Beirut Cadmos inaugurated a new reverse osmosis water filtration system at Naahme Public School, providing students with reliable access to clean and safe drinking water. The project was delivered through a partnership between the Rotary Club of Beirut Cadmos, the Rotaract Club de Beyrouth Millenium and AGBU, demonstrating the power of collaboration in addressing practical community needs. For the students, the new system represents more than a piece of equipment. It provides a healthier school environment and helps ensure that access to safe drinking water is available throughout the school day. By investing in clean water, the project also contributes to greater awareness of the importance of healthy habits and preventive care among young people. Its impact is designed to last well beyond the inauguration. Unlike a one-off donation, the filtration system is a sustainable resource that can continue serving generations of pupils and supporting the school's commitment to student wellbeing.

The initiative also reflects Rotary's ability to bring together clubs and community partners around solutions that respond directly to local needs. Through shared resources, expertise and service, a relatively focused intervention can create meaningful benefits for an entire school community.

The project is a reminder that lasting change often begins with addressing the essentials. Clean water supports healthier children, stronger communities and better opportunities to learn.



Bahrain: A Coalition for good Distribute School Bags

A school bag may seem simple, but for a family facing financial hardship, it can represent dignity, opportunity and a positive start to the year. By coming together to support children and families in need, community organisations can turn a practical contribution into lasting encouragement.

The Rotary Clubs of Salmaniya and Seef Bahrain, together with ISACA Bahrain and the Dawoodi Bohra Community, joined forces to distribute school bags to families in need ahead of the new academic year.

To ensure the support reached those who needed it most, the coalition worked closely with local charitable organisations, including A'ali Charity Society, Al Sanabel Orphan Care Society, Riffa Women's Cultural Society, Al Kawther Society, Tree of Life Society, The Capital Charity Association, Budaiya Charity Society and the Northern Governorate.

This collaborative approach enabled the initiative to reach different communities while strengthening the network of organisations working to support vulnerable families. For children receiving the school bags, the project provides essential school supplies while helping them begin the new academic year with greater confidence.

The initiative also demonstrates the value of partnership. By combining Rotary's spirit of service with the resources, local knowledge and community networks of its partners, the project delivers a greater impact than any organisation could achieve alone.

As the new school year begins, these school bags carry a message that extends beyond education: you are supported, your future matters, and your community believes in you.

Through practical action, collaboration and compassion, the Rotary Clubs of Salmaniya and Seef Bahrain continue to embody Service Above Self, helping build stronger, more inclusive and resilient communities—one child and one family at a time.



UAE: 1,000 children. 1,000 stronger starts. One community united by purpose

The Rotary Club of Dubai Cosmopolitan was proud to participate in a meaningful Back-to-School initiative supporting 1,000 children as they prepare to begin the new academic year with confidence, dignity, and hope.

Alongside fellow Rotary clubs, volunteers, and community partners, we came together to create a day filled with energy, care, and encouragement, reminding every child that their education matters and that their community believes in their future.

A school bag may be a simple item, but it can represent something much bigger: belonging, readiness, opportunity, and the confidence to walk into a new classroom prepared to learn and grow.

This initiative reflects what Rotary is all about: people from different backgrounds coming together, giving their time, and turning shared values into practical action. Service Above Self is not just a motto—it comes alive in moments like these.

Our sincere appreciation goes to Tarahum Foundation, the Association of Rotary Clubs UAE, all participating Rotary clubs, and every volunteer who helped make this initiative possible. Thank you Zina, Patrick, Natalia and Khaled.

Together, we are not only preparing children for school, we are helping them prepare for the future.



The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
ARPIC Faisal Abdulrahman Juma



By the Light of the Moon – Celebrating Music & Young Talent in Zahle - District 2452 Lebanon

In a magical evening beneath the skies of Zahle, the Rotary Club of Zahle–Bekaa, in collaboration with the Michel Daher Social Foundation, proudly sponsored “By the Light of the Moon,” a beautiful musical performance by the Classical Music Band of the National Education Scouts – Zahle Region, held at the iconic Our Lady of Zahle and Bekaa.

The evening brought together the Mayor of Zahle–Maalaka and Taanayel Eng. Selim Ghazaleh, Mrs. Marlene Daher, President of the Michel Daher Social Foundation, and Rotary Club of Zahle–Bekaa President Dr. Badih El Hajj Chahine, alongside current and former MPs and ministers, Rotary leaders, community figures, families, and friends. The event was also broadcast live by Zahle TV and Noursat.

In his remarks, President Dr. Badih El Hajj Chahine highlighted Rotary’s commitment to supporting art, music, and young talent, empowering youth to develop their abilities, express their creativity, and contribute positively to their community. Commander Joseph Mokdassi also emphasized the importance of creating opportunities for young people to grow and showcase their talents.

Led by Commander Mounir Abou Jalad, the young musicians delivered an inspiring performance where music, the beauty of Zahle, and the magic of the moonlit night came together in an unforgettable atmosphere.

Through initiatives like this, the Rotary Club of Zahle–Bekaa continues to support culture, youth, and meaningful community partnerships that Create Lasting Impact



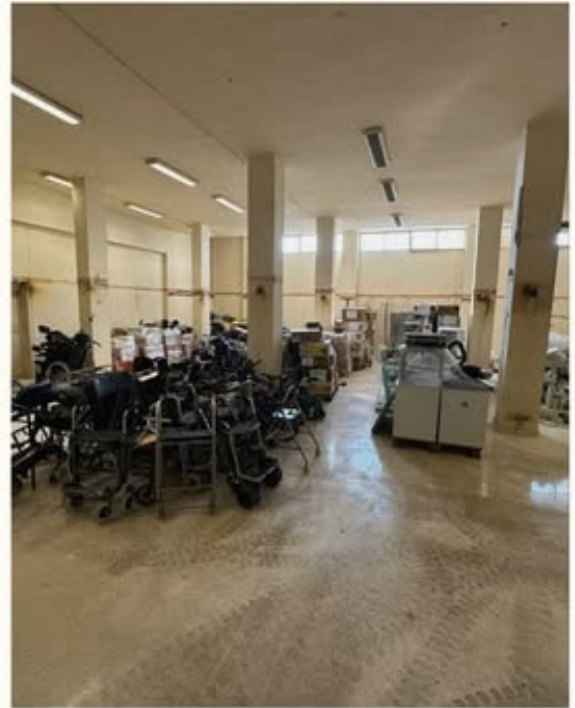
Solidarity Beyond Borders District 2452 - Lebanon

When people unite across borders, humanitarian action can reach those who need it most. Through the power of international partnership, the CIP BeLux-Lebanon has brought together Belgium, Luxembourg and Lebanon in a major humanitarian initiative supporting communities facing critical needs.

As part of this international effort, two 40-foot containers of humanitarian aid were delivered to Lebanon. The shipments included essential medical supplies for hospitals, hygiene products, and equipment for the Lebanese Civil Defense, helping strengthen both frontline services and support for vulnerable communities.

The initiative demonstrates how Rotary's international network can transform friendship and cooperation into practical, life-changing assistance. By pooling resources across countries, partners were able to deliver substantial quantities of essential materials that can support healthcare providers, Civil Defense personnel and people in need. Beyond the immediate value of the donated supplies, the project strengthens international solidarity and demonstrates the lasting potential of cross-border cooperation. It brings together people and organisations around a simple but powerful principle: communities are stronger when they support one another.

For Rotary, humanitarian service is not defined by geography. It is about recognising a need, building partnerships and taking action. The successful delivery of these two containers is a tangible example of Service Above Self in practice—turning international friendship into meaningful support and showing that when we work together, compassion can travel across borders and create lasting impact where it matters most.



Rotary 
Beirut Cedars

From a Dream to a School: Creating Access to Education in Zanzibar

Education has the power to change not only the life of a child, but the future of an entire community.

This belief is at the heart of the work of **CR HOPE Foundation and its Seeds of Light School in Kizimkazi, Zanzibar, Tanzania.**

Founded by **Renos Fountoulakis, a member of the Rotary Club of Jumeirah, CR HOPE Foundation** was created with a simple purpose: to give children access to education, opportunity and a supportive environment in which they can grow.

Today, Seeds of Light School provides education to approximately 180 children, from KG1 through Grade 6. What began as an initiative to respond to a local need has developed into a growing educational community supported by teachers, staff, volunteers, donors and partners from around the world.

For many of the children and families we work with, education represents much more than attending school. It creates confidence, develops skills and opens possibilities that can influence the direction of a child's entire life. Our approach also extends beyond traditional classroom learning. Students are encouraged to participate in creative activities, sports and practical learning experiences that expose them to the world around them. International volunteers work alongside our local team, bringing different experiences and cultures into the school while learning directly from the community themselves.

The Next Chapter: Secondary Education

One of our most important priorities is ensuring that the educational journey does not end when our students complete primary school.

For this reason, CR HOPE Foundation has begun the development of a secondary school in Kizimkazi, with construction currently underway.

Rotary Values in Action

As a member of the Rotary Club of Jumeirah, I strongly believe that this work reflects Rotary's commitment to Basic Education and Literacy and, more broadly, the principle of Service Above Self.

Education is one of the most sustainable investments we can make. When we provide a child with the opportunity to learn, we are not simply helping that child today. We are giving them tools they can carry throughout their life and potentially pass on to future generations.

The journey of Seeds of Light School continues, classroom by classroom and child by child.

Our vision is simple: every child deserves the opportunity to learn, dream and build a brighter future.

Renos Fountoulakis
Member, Rotary Club of Jumeirah
District 2452
Founder, CR HOPE Foundation



End the Litter Trail Campaign in UAE - District 2452 - UAE

What can a community clean-up uncover? Sometimes, something as unexpected as an entire generator lying beneath the sea.

The Rotaract Club of Dubai and the Rotary Club of Dubai are preparing to take environmental action below the surface as part of their annual End the Litter Trail Campaign, demonstrating that protecting our environment means looking beyond what is immediately visible.

In partnership with Bermuda Diving Center, volunteers take the clean-up underwater, removing waste from the seabed that would otherwise remain hidden from view. Over the years, their efforts have uncovered a remarkable range of discarded items—including, surprisingly, a full generator. These discoveries highlight an important environmental reality: the impact of litter does not end at the shoreline. Waste beneath the water can affect marine ecosystems, wildlife and the health of coastal environments, even when it remains invisible to the public.

This year's campaign will once again bring volunteers together to tackle the problem directly and turn community participation into measurable environmental action. The initiative also creates an opportunity to raise awareness about responsible waste disposal and the importance of protecting marine environments for future generations.

On 14 November, the Rotaract Club of Dubai and the Rotary Club of Dubai invite the community to join the End the Litter Trail Campaign.

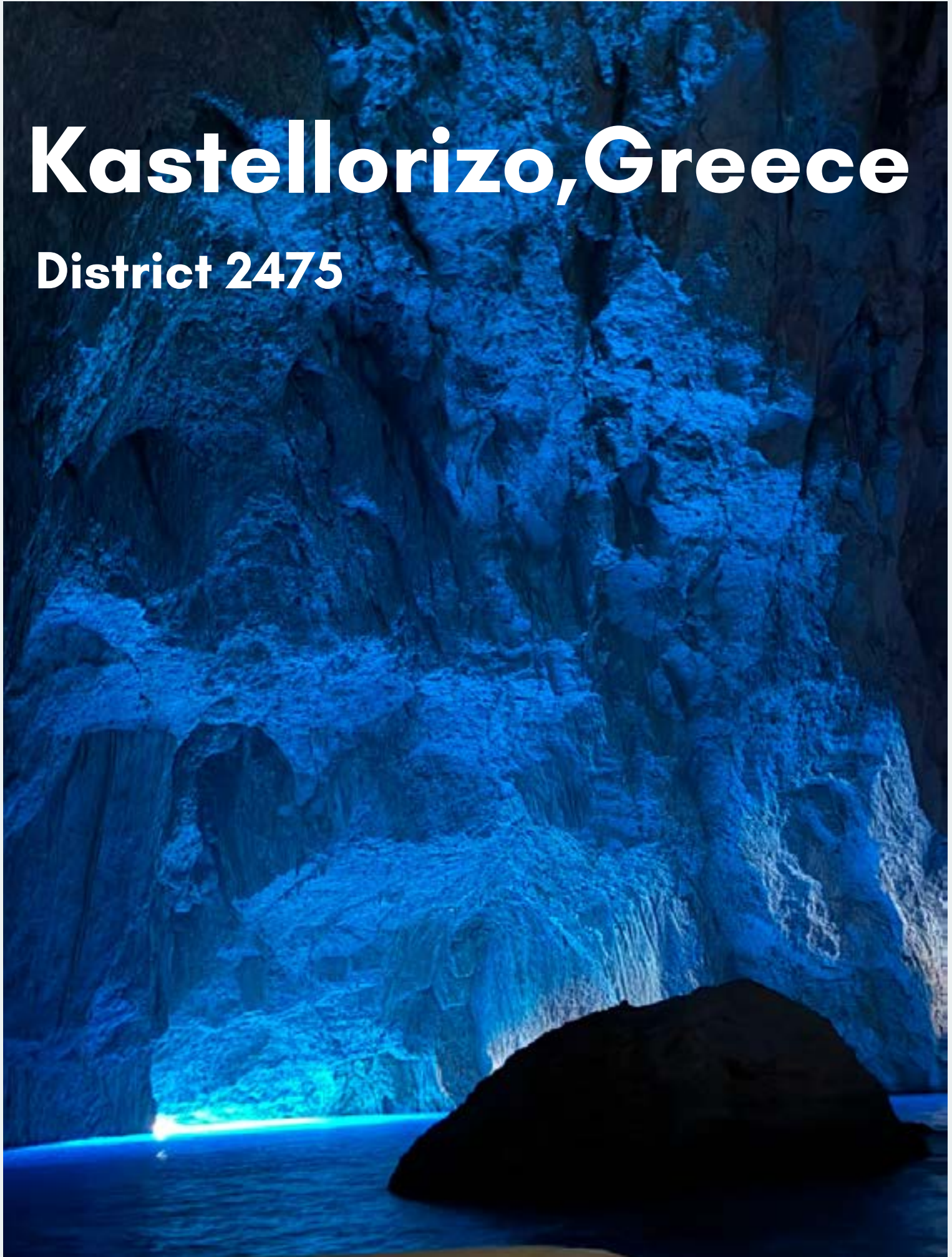
Because meaningful environmental action begins when we choose not only to see the problem—but to act where the problem is found.

Together, we can turn community action into visible, lasting impact.



Kastellorizo, Greece

District 2475



ARPIC Elena Janniki
RC Rodos-Kolossos, District 2475



Rotary International District 2475 to Participate in the 1st Attica Region Volunteerism Festival

Rotary International District 2475 has officially announced its **participation in the premier gathering of volunteer organizations across the Attica region.**

On Sunday, **September 27, 2026**, from 17:00 to 23:00, the Olympic Athletic Center of Athens (OAKA) will serve as a central hub for organizations and individuals dedicated to positive social impact and community service.

District 2475 will present its regional initiatives, club projects, and the overarching global vision of Rotary International, reinforcing the organization's core philosophy that "Service Above Self" is a lifelong commitment. Through Rotary's Core Areas of Focus, members drive sustainable change daily across several critical sectors:
Environmental Protection: Implementing initiatives to support sustainability and conservation.

Peace and Conflict Resolution:

Fostering community dialogue and global harmony.

Disease Prevention and Treatment:

Improving healthcare access and combating endemic illnesses.

Clean Water and Sanitation:

Securing reliable access to vital resources for underserved communities.

Education and Basic Literacy:

Supporting academic infrastructure and lifelong learning opportunities.

Maternal and Child Health:

Enhancing medical care and welfare for families.

Economic and Community Development:

Creating measurable economic opportunities and civic growth.

This inaugural festival offers an invaluable platform for stakeholders to network, exchange strategic ideas, and collaborate with fellow changemakers who share a dedicated commitment to human welfare and civic engagement.

Event Details

Venue: OAKA – Olympic Athletic Center of Athens

Date: Sunday, September 27, 2026

Time: 17:00 – 23:00

Hosting Entities: Rotary International District 2475

Join us in celebrating the power of civic engagement!

ATTICA VOLUNTEERISM FESTIVAL



HELLENIC REPUBLIC



REGION OF ATTICA



September 27, 2026



Olympic Athletic Center of Athens (OAKA)



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 2475



ENVIRONMENT



PEACEBUILDING &
CONFLICT PREVENTION

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT



AREAS OF
FOCUS



DISEASE PREVENTION
& TREATMENT

BASIC EDUCATION
& LITERACY



WATER, SANITATION
& HYGIENE

Rotary Club of Dionysos Delivers Essential Supplies to Wildfire Victims via the Hellenic Red Cross

Demonstrating its steadfast commitment to social responsibility and community solidarity, the Rotary Club of Dionysos organized a relief initiative on Thursday, August 6, 2026, to support fellow citizens impacted by the recent wildfires.

An official delegation from the Club visited the central warehouse of the Hellenic Red Cross, located at 111-113 Astrous Street in Kolonos, Athens.

The representatives successfully delivered 12 bulk packages containing essential foodstuffs and emergency provisions, including milk, pasta, rice, and legumes.

This initiative reinforces the foundational mission of Rotary International to consistently stand by communities in times of crisis and provide immediate, meaningful aid to those in need.



Rotary Clubs Unite to Enhance Accessibility at Historical Sites on Lemnos

In a powerful demonstration of Service Above Self, the "Gift of Accessibility" 2.0 program recently brought its mission to the island of Lemnos, delivering specialized wheelchairs to three of the island's most prominent cultural and historical landmarks. The collaborative initiative aims to eliminate physical barriers, ensuring that Greece's rich cultural heritage is open and accessible to all visitors.

Supported by a dynamic coalition of Rotary Clubs—including the Rotary E-Club of Greece, Agia Paraskevi, Anoixi-Semeli, Kifissia-Kastri, Patra "Kostis Palamas", Preveza, Chalandri, and Psychiko—the project highlights the profound impact of collective Rotary action.

Rotarian Spyros Efstathopoulos of the Rotary Club of Psychiko spearheaded the on-the-ground coordination, seamlessly managing the logistics and handover ceremonies across the island.

The distribution targeted key historical venues to maximize community and tourist impact: The Moudros Center of History and Maritime Tradition: Wheelchairs were officially received by Deputy Mayor of Lemnos Dimitris Boulotis and the President of the Municipal Community of Moudros, Antonis Zouphantis.

The Moudros Center of History and Maritime Tradition: Wheelchairs were officially received by Deputy Mayor of Lemnos Dimitris Boulotis and the President of the Municipal Community of Moudros, Antonis Zouphantis.

The Archaeological Museum of Lemnos: Museum Director Despoina Baltzi attended the handover ceremony and expressed gratitude for the enhanced mobility solutions.

The Archaeological Site of Poliochni: Recognized as the oldest organized city in Europe, the historic site's administrator, Christos Rallias, accepted the donation to welcome mobility-impaired history enthusiasts.

This initiative reinforces the fundamental Rotary belief that accessibility is not a privilege, but a basic human right. By equipping these vital institutions, the participating clubs have not only made a tangible donation but have also taken a significant step toward creating a more inclusive society.

Through projects like the "Gift of Accessibility" 2.0, Rotarians continue to break down barriers, champion human dignity, and create a lasting impact that will resonate for generations to come.



A Legacy of Service: Second-Generation Rotarians Inducted in Rhodes During Official District Governor Visit

In a moment rich with symbolism and generational continuity, the Rotary Club of Rhodes marked a historic milestone during the Official Visit of District Governor Charalampos Tinginagas.

The occasion served as the perfect backdrop to celebrate August as Rotary's designated Membership and Extension Month, highlighting the deep-rooted family legacy that drives the organization forward.

Under the thematic banner, "The second generation of Rotarians in Rhodes: Five children of active members joined the Club," the induction ceremony formally welcomed five young professionals into the global Rotary family.

The new Rotarians presented in alphabetical order, are:

- Nikolaos Karavas (son of Stamatios)
- Ivana Moro Louizidi (daughter of Konstantinos)
- Michail Panormitis Economou (son of Nikolaos)
- Eftychia Papastamatiou (daughter of Stamatios)
- Ioannis Michail Pipinos (son of Ilias)

All five are the children of active, long-standing Rotarians within the Rhodes Club. This event represents far more than a statistical increase in membership; it signifies a conscious, deliberate choice by the next generation to inherit and carry forward a proud family tradition of volunteerism, solidarity, and social responsibility.

The presence of these five young individuals establishes a vital bridge between generations. It provides tangible evidence that Rotary International's core value of "Service Above Self" continues to resonate with and inspire the youth. By fostering this seamless transition of leadership, the Rotary Club of Rhodes and District 2475 are actively securing a powerful, sustainable legacy for the future of the region.



Rotary Club of Athinai Hosts Day of Solidarity for "Shedia" Street Paper Vendors

On August 14th, the Rotary Club of Athinai organized and implemented a special seaside excursion to Schinias for 35 vendors of the "Shedia" street paper. The initiative was designed to offer a day dedicated to service, fellowship, and human connection for individuals who face daily hardships with immense dignity and strength.

The Rotary Club of Athinai managed all aspects of the day, arranging round-trip transportation from the center of Athens to Schinias and ensuring the participants had everything required for a carefree experience by the sea. Guests were provided with beach towels, hats, slippers, and sunscreen. The day concluded with a hosted lunch at "O Paradeisos" tavern.

For the Club, community service extends far beyond material aid; it is defined by presence, genuine interest, and respect. The event aimed to create meaningful moments of joy, relaxation, and solidarity, reinforcing the message that no member of the community stands alone.

The event was attended by the President of the Rotary Club of Athinai Rot. Anastasios Ballas, the Treasurer of the Rotary Club of Pallini-Gerakas, Rot. Konstantina Korontzi, and Rotary Club of Athens member, Rot. Dimitris Karapistolis, accompanied by his wife.

Accompanying the vendors was Mr. Christos Alefantis, founder and journalist of "Shedia". The Rotary Club of Athens has developed a deeply impactful partnership with Mr. Alefantis, focusing on supporting the individuals behind the iconic "red vests" and preserving their dignity through continuous structural and social outreach.

This action serves as another practical expression of the Rotary Club of Athinai ongoing commitment to community support, demonstrating that true service lies in shared time, shared smiles, and an active human presence.

The organizers express their sincere gratitude to MG Motor (Syngelidis Group) for sponsoring the hats and towels, and to Mr. Nikos Tsokas of TSOKAS S.A. for generously providing the coach bus for transportation.



QR Codes for Conservation: Spot it, Scan it, Protect Rhodes' Marine Life!

The Rotary Club of Rhodes (District 2475, Club ID 13434) is actively driving the vital "Als-SOS" initiative forward. Demonstrating a profound commitment to environmental stewardship, the club has directly contributed to the creation and installation of specialized informational signs across the island.

One of the most prominent signs has just been strategically placed at one of the busiest, high-visibility beach locations on Rhodes, maximizing its reach to both locals and international visitors. How Does It Work? Beyond educating beachgoers about the island's most important marine and freshwater species, these signs feature a powerful interactive tool: a dedicated QR Code.

By scanning the code with a smartphone, swimmers and coastal visitors can instantly report real-time environmental events, including:

- Sea turtle sightings or nesting activities
- Injured or stranded marine mammals
- Sightings of invasive or alien species
- Jellyfish blooms along the coast
- Marine pollution incidents
- Immediate Scientific Action

Every report submitted via the QR code is instantly transmitted to the scientific team at the Hydrobiological Station of Rhodes (Rhodes Aquarium) and the "For Nature" ("GIA TI FIS") organization. This digital link allows experts to immediately launch official incident management protocols. The system ensures both the effective, rapid protection of marine wildlife and the overall safety of the public.

The initiative extends far beyond public signage. This coming winter, members of the Rotary Club of Rhodes will participate in specialized educational seminars. Conducted by scientists from the Hydrobiological Station of Rhodes in collaboration with the "GIA TI FIS"

organization, this training will equip Rotarians with correct management protocols for marine fauna incidents.

Members will learn how to properly handle injuries caused by marine organisms, transforming local Rotarians into active, trained guardians of our coastlines.

Reflecting on this vital ecological partnership, the President of the Rotary Club of Rhodes, Dr. Veatriki Kalliopi Servou, shared:

"The protection of the natural environment, and especially marine life, is a top priority for the Rotary Club of Rhodes. Our participation in the Als-SOS Network confirms our commitment to supporting initiatives that unite scientific knowledge, volunteerism, and active citizen participation for the benefit of our local community and our natural wealth."

Through the "Als-SOS" network, Rotarians are successfully turning environmental care into real, lasting, and measurable action.



The Global Reach of Rotary – One Individual Honoured, Years Apart, on Two Sides of the World

In October 2022, the Rotary Club of Mytilene honoured brothers George and Stylianos Kalfagiannis as major benefactors of the village of Filia on the island of Lesbos. They were recognised for their generous support in renovating the former Filia Primary School in 1981 and again in 2016, transforming it into a secondary school named "Kalfagiannio" (Kalfagiannis Secondary School).

In 2026, the Rotary Club of Edo Mérida, based in El Vigía, Venezuela, dedicated the month of October in its 2026 Rotary Calendar to George Kalfagiannis, highlighting the honorary awards and distinctions he and his family have received over the years.

The Kalfagiannis family has played a pivotal role in the development of El Vigía, establishing institutions of lasting importance to the community. Their contributions include founding the city's football club, the Chamber of Commerce, and the outdoor recreational club "Las Colinas."

Equally significant has been the family's longstanding philanthropic work, leaving a remarkable legacy through their selfless support of the city's Oncology Clinic, the Home for the Elderly, and the Women's Volunteer Association.

This rare recognition by two Rotary clubs, bestowed independently and years apart on different continents, reflects the universal values of service above self and the enduring impact of the Kalfagiannis family's commitment to education, community development, and humanitarian service.



Creating Lasting Impact in Rhodes: The Rotary Club of Rodos-Kolosos Strengthens Local Healthcare

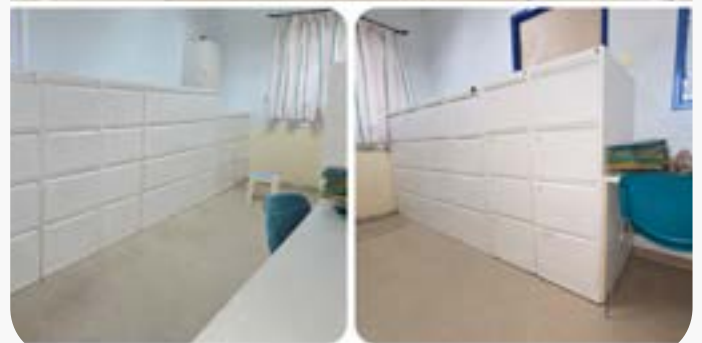
Guided by Rotary International's theme, "Create Lasting Impact," the Rotary Club of Rodos-Kolosos has completed a meaningful community service initiative, demonstrating how focused interventions can generate long-term value for public health infrastructure.

Following a successful charity event organized by the Club, essential resources were mobilized to procure and deliver modern archival filing cabinets to the Oncology Clinic of the General Hospital of Rhodes.

This specialized equipment addresses a critical administrative need, directly optimizing the organization and management of the clinic's extensive patient records. By streamlining these processes, the project provides vital operational support to frontline medical and nursing staff, ultimately translating into smoother, more efficient care for patients undergoing treatment.

This project serves as a clear example of how the Club turns collective awareness and structured action into tangible, sustainable benefits. The successful implementation reinforces a core truth: the pressing needs of local communities can be met effectively when generosity is paired with strategic collaboration, meticulous planning, and a shared humanitarian vision.

By delivering practical solutions that enhance daily hospital operations, the Rotary Club of Rodos-Kolosos successfully puts the Rotary ideal into practice, leaving a permanent positive footprint on the Aegean island.



A New Partnership for Lasting Impact: Rotary E-Club of Greece Joins Forces with RETO Hellas

In alignment with Rotary's enduring vision to change lives and foster community resilience, the Rotary E-Club of Greece has officially entered into a powerful new partnership with the non-governmental organization RETO Hellas.

By signing a formal Memorandum of Cooperation, both organizations have committed to a shared journey of social service, solidarity, and sustainable community development.

The joint initiative launched its first wave of action in Heraklion, Crete. For Rotarians, service achieves its ultimate value when it transcends isolated acts of charity to build meaningful partnerships and enduring solutions.

This collaboration directly reflects this year's global theme: Create Lasting Impact.

RETO Hellas does vital, everyday work on the ground, supporting individuals on the margins of society by offering them human connection, rehabilitation, and a dignified opportunity for a fresh start.

To empower this mission, the Rotary E-Club of Greece coordinated a targeted donation of essential goods to equip their local facilities.

The initial delivery included:

Two double mattresses and three single mattresses

Three semi-double beds

Dozens of educational books and CDs

Two coffee makers and various essential household items



The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
ARPIC Elena Janniki

Items that might seem commonplace are given a second life through this initiative, transforming into vital resources that provide comfort and stability to individuals seeking a second chance.

True Rotary service does not end with the delivery of material goods; it begins when those resources become the catalyst for personal transformation. The partnership between the Rotary E-Club of Greece and RETO Hellas is designed for longevity and continuity. By combining resources, vision, and action, both organizations are working together to leave a meaningful, lasting social footprint in the community.



Eight Years of Sunshine: How Rotary eClub Greece is Bringing Joy and Bright Smiles to the Children of PAGNI

There is no sound more beautiful than a child's laughter, especially within the walls of a hospital. For the eighth wonderful year in a row, Rotary eClub Greece has brought a wave of warmth, magic, and bright smiles to the brave little heroes fighting big battles at the Pediatric and Adolescent Hematology-Oncology Clinic of PAGNI (University General Hospital of Heraklion).

This beloved annual tradition is a true labor of love. No matter the season or the challenges, the goal remains beautifully simple: to transform hospital rooms into vibrant spaces of imagination, creativity, and boundless optimism.

This year's joyful delivery beautifully brought to life the Rotary International theme, "Create Lasting Impact." There is truly no better way to leave a lasting mark on the world than by wrapping your community's children and their families in love and consistency when they need it most.

To keep the young patients completely safe and healthy, the club ensured that every single gift was brand new, sparkling, and sealed in its original packaging—ready to be opened by excited little hands!

A Beautiful Symphony of Giving

The magic was multiplied this year thanks to wonderful friendships with local volunteer groups, proving that we can always create more joy when we work together:

Rotary eClub Greece: Supplied an array of colorful board games that brought friends and families together for hours of fun and friendly competition.

The GIVE Volunteer Team: Delivered brilliant puzzles and construction sets, turning rooms into creative architecture zones.

The Inlibrovita ("Give Life to a Book") Team: Filled the shelves with enchanting storybooks, fairy tales, and creative kits that sparked

endless imagination and provided a beautiful escape for the kids.

Radiating Hope and Gratitude

The clinic was absolutely buzzing with energy as the children enthusiastically welcomed their new treasures. The gifts, wrapped in pure love and care by the club's volunteers, brought an instant spark of happiness to the ward.

The Hospital Administration, along with the clinic's Head Department and Social Worker, expressed their deepest, heartfelt thanks for this beautiful, enduring partnership. They shared how much these annual surprises lift the spirits of the children, bringing a vital note of hope and celebration into their daily routine.

Before saying goodbye, the members of Rotary eClub Greece showered the hospital's incredible medical, nursing, and administrative staff with praise and gratitude for the daily miracles they perform. The visit wrapped up with high spirits, warm hugs, and happy wishes for a bright, healthy, and beautiful summer ahead.

Ultimately, this project reminds us all that true Rotary service isn't just about a single moment of charity. It's about building a steady bridge of joy and love—proving that when kindness is



Rila Lakes, Bulgaria

District 2482



ARPIC Arkan Nihat
Rotary club Kardjali, District 2482



On the Green: Rotary Golf Cup – Where Precision Meets Friendship

52 players, 26 teams and 18 holes – that is the **Rotary Golf Cup** in numbers. Held on 8 August at Pirin Golf & Country Club, the District tournament brought together golf enthusiasts, Rotarians and friends. Once again, the event was hosted by the Rotary Club of Bansko–Razlog.

The tournament was played in a two-player scramble format, where partnership is just as important as individual skill. After each shot, the team continues from whichever player has the better position, making the final result a true reflection of teamwork.

Golf is a sport that may appear calm and unhurried. There are no noisy stands, no sprint to the finish and no one chasing after the ball. Instead, there is concentration, strategy and those few centimetres that can sometimes separate a great shot from the next attempt. Perhaps that is why precision and patience go so naturally hand in hand with conversation, new friendships and good company.

In the overall standings, **first place went to Borislav Vradzhaliev and Viktor Genev of Team 911, with 45 points. Dimitar Kondev and Petar Danchev of Muppet Show finished second with 44 points, while Ryan Hnetka and Mark Kelly of Team Ryan & Mark took third place, also with 44 points.**



The tournament also featured a special ranking for teams with at least one Rotarian among their members. **Victory went to Vasil Rangelov and Petar Radushev, with 31 points, while Borislav Petrov and Hristo Mihaylovski finished second with 28 points.**

Rotary Golf Cup once again demonstrated how sport can bring people together through shared experiences, a healthy competitive spirit and quality time spent together.

At the end of the day, the hosts from the Rotary Club of Bansko–Razlog added another successfully delivered District event to the Rotary calendar.

DPIC Galya Pencheva
District 2482 Bulgaria



Our children, but not exactly. Who are they?

As a Rotaractor, one of my closest friends built **a very strong bond with our Interactors** at the time. I couldn't understand that connection back then, even though I was close to every single one of them. Now, however, I understand it. Perhaps you will ask - why?

At the end of the previous year and the beginning of the current, a group of wonderful young people came and clearly declared that they wanted to revive our Interact club. Most of them are members of other organizations as well. Through those channels, traveling across the country, they had met Interactors from elsewhere - and it seemed cool to them. When we first met, they simply knew what they wanted.

Right from the start, they kicked off their initiatives with immense drive. They carried out their first project in February. Despite the cold winter day, their smiles, positivity, and energy created a sunny atmosphere right in the city center. I stayed by their side in case they needed anything, but also to get to know them. I have to admit, I had a great time. Over time, thanks to their fantastic sense of humor and intelligence, I became genuinely addicted to their presence.

They take part in all Rotary club Shoumen projects, just as we join in theirs - not out of obligation, but because they enjoy it. I don't even have to ask if they want to participate. They offer on their own, even though they already run at least one initiative every month. Working together has built a foundation of trust that, I dare say, has grown into true friendship. They feel at ease knowing they can confide in me whenever they face a problem. They know I will listen without judgment and that we'll work out a solution together - whether it's club-related or personal. Watching them grow is fascinating. I can see how Interact is shaping them as individuals

Right now, their latest project, "Back to School," is underway. They are back in the city center, collecting school supplies for families with more modest means. The clever bunch designed it so that even if someone can't donate something material, they can write an inspiring message for a child who will receive the supplies. I'm heading over to see them in a bit. I go every day. I'm addicted to the way their faces light up with big grins when they see me coming, and the way they shout my name so the entire town center can hear. It's awesome. Every single minute of time invested in them is worth it.

Galya Atanasova, RC Shoumen **District Brand Officer, D2482 Bulgaria**



New Fetal Monitor Supports Mothers and Babies in Smolyan

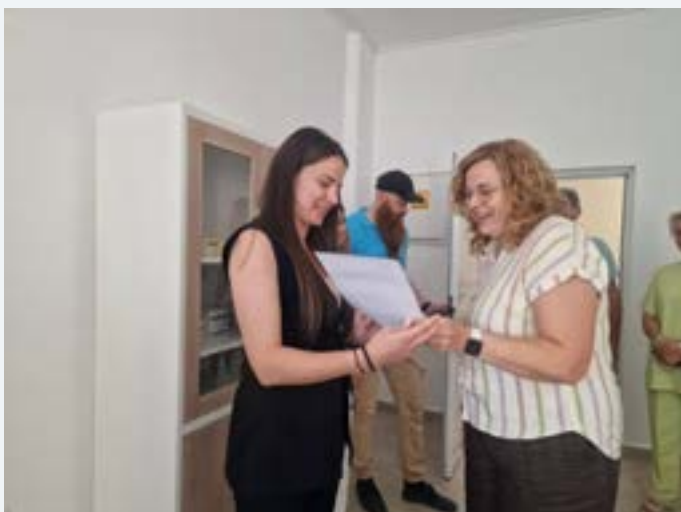
The Obstetrics and Gynaecology Department of Dr Bratan Shukerov Hospital in Smolyan received a new fetal monitor donated by **Rotary Club Smolyan**.

The equipment will support doctors and midwives in monitoring the condition of pregnant women and babies during pregnancy and childbirth. The donation includes a T12 fetal monitor with nine indicators, a transducer for twin monitoring and consumables.

According to Dr Anastasia Hadzhihristeva, President of Rotary Club Smolyan, the idea for the donation was born during the organisation of an event dedicated to women's health. Club members believed that this equipment would be useful in the daily work of the medical team and would bring greater peace of mind to women during pregnancy and delivery.

Dr Anton Lalov, senior physician at the department, described the monitor as a small device with enormous value. It helps record the baby's heartbeat and uterine contractions, giving the medical team important information when assessing the condition of the fetus and choosing appropriate medical action.

The hospital leadership expressed gratitude to the donors, describing the gesture as an act of social commitment, initiative and humanity. For Rotary Club Smolyan, this donation is care in action — for mothers, babies, families and the people who care for them.



Forever Among the Stars: Music, Memory and Support for Young Talents

On 22 August 2026, on the eve of the birthday of Slavyan Ivanov, who would have turned 26 this year, the fifth memorial rock festival “Forever Among the Stars” took place at Max Horse Base in Nova Zagora.

The concert was initiated by Slavyan’s father, Ivan Ivanov, and supported by **Rotary Club Nova Zagora**, the Municipality of Nova Zagora and representatives of the local business community. The evening brought together music, remembrance and solidarity.

On stage, the bands Darrz and Mr. Dazzletone presented their talent and energy, followed by Groowind and the band Bashtin, in which Ivan Ivanov also performs.

The funds raised during the charity event will be donated to support young talents.

The strength of this initiative lies in its human meaning: the memory of one young person becomes an opportunity for other young people to play, develop and be heard.

The festival also carries an important civic message against road tragedies, reminding the community how precious and fragile life is.

With its support, Rotary Club Nova Zagora stands beside a family, a community and a cause that transforms remembrance into action and solidarity into hope.



Invest Pernik: Local Knowledge Becomes Opportunity

Rotary Club Pernik has launched **Invest Pernik** — a bilingual investment portal and a network of local investment ambassadors created to present the economic potential of Pernik to investors from Bulgaria and abroad.

The initiative is civic, transparent and free of charge. The portal, investpernik.com, gathers public data about the municipality and the region and presents it in a practical format for potential investors. It includes key indicators, sector profiles, distances to industrial locations, information about Industrial Park Pernik and opportunities linked to the **Just Transition Plan**.

At the heart of the project is the network of **Investment Ambassadors**.

These are local companies that have signed a charter and agreed to respond to enquiries, share experience about working in the region and, where possible, host visits. More than 10 companies joined the network on the first day.

The initiative highlights Pernik's location near Sofia, its transport connectivity, educated workforce and development potential. For Rotary Club Pernik, which returned to Rotary International and District 2482 in June 2026 after a 15-year interruption, Invest Pernik is a strong example of civic action for long-term community development.

It shows how Rotary can create impact by connecting information, trust, business experience and local pride.



Clean Water for Healthy Children in Pomorie

Rotary Club Pomorie has completed the installation of **drinking water purification systems** under the project “Clean Water – Healthy Children”.

The initiative covers all kindergartens in Pomorie and their branches: Detelina Kindergarten, the nursery branch at Detelina Kindergarten, Veselushko Kindergarten and Slancho Branch.

Before the project began, members of Rotary Club Pomorie met with kindergarten leadership teams and parents to identify the most useful and appropriate solutions for the children and staff. This careful preparation helped turn the initiative into a practical response to a real community need.

Rotarians were actively involved in every stage of the project, including logistics, installation and commissioning of the systems. The installation activities were completed according to plan, and the club also donated additional replacement filters to support the continued use of the systems.

The project brings a simple but important benefit into the daily life of children: access to cleaner drinking water in the places where they learn, play and grow.

For Rotary Club Pomorie, “Clean Water – Healthy Children” is a project with care for the future — a local action that supports children’s wellbeing and creates lasting impact for the whole community.



Rotary
Club Bourgas



Maths Festival

INTERNATIONAL ROTARY MATHS FESTIVAL

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



PHOTO: NIKI DINOY

LOCAL ROUND



October 25, 2026



Different places around the world

INTERNATIONAL ROUND



April 17, 2027



Bourgas, Bulgaria

Belgrade, Serbia

District 2483



ARPIC Aleksandar Radojicic
RC Beograd Skadarlija, D2483



Rotary club of Pljevlja - Tara brought us together once again this year in the spirit of adventure, friendship, and humanitarianism.

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
ARPIC Aleksandar Radojicic

On July 25, 2026, the Rotary Club of Pljevlja organized the 13th Humanitarian Rafting on the Tara River, with the aim of raising funds for the Global Grant project "Knowledge in Our Hands," dedicated to supporting children with special educational needs.

More than 50 participants from Montenegro and countries across the region, together with District 2483 Governor Daliborka Bradić, enjoyed the unique natural beauty of the Tara River – its thrilling rapids, magnificent canyon, crystal-clear Ljutica River, swimming, and an unforgettable zip-line experience.

Following the rafting, a humanitarian dinner and charity raffle were organized, raising additional funds for the same project. On the second day, the gathering continued at the beautiful Čehotina Meanders, where participants enjoyed nature and wonderful company.

We sincerely thank all Rotary clubs from the region, as well as all our friends who took part in this event and supported its humanitarian mission with their presence.

Because when nature, friendship, and humanitarian spirit come together, they create memories that last a lifetime.



Rotary Club of Budva - Brings Together the Rotary Community and Raises More Than €19,000 for Humanitarian Causes

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
ARPIC Aleksandar Radojicic

When friendship becomes action, a community can achieve extraordinary things. On 22 August 2026, more than 150 Rotarians, friends, partners, donors and institutional representatives gathered in Budva for the traditional Rotary Summer Party – Rotary Day, organised by the Rotary Club of Budva.

The evening brought together representatives of 31 Rotary clubs from Montenegro and the wider region, demonstrating the strength of Rotary fellowship and its ability to connect people across borders, professions and generations. Together, participants raised more than €19,000 through ticket sales, generous donations and a charity raffle, supported by numerous partners and friends of Rotary. Rotary District 2483 Serbia & Montenegro further contributed €1,000 to the humanitarian initiative.

The funds will support the “Knowledge in Their Hands” project, which aims to improve educational opportunities for children with special educational needs throughout Montenegro. The investment goes beyond immediate assistance: it seeks to create opportunities for children to learn, develop their potential and participate more fully in society.

District Governor Daliborka Bradić, who attended during her official visit to the Rotary Club of Budva, highlighted the importance of bringing clubs together around a common purpose. The event demonstrated that the true value of Rotary is measured not only in funds raised, but also in relationships strengthened, partnerships created and lives touched.

Rotary Club of Budva President Luka Đonović expressed his gratitude to everyone who contributed to the evening's success. The Rotary Summer Party showed once again that humanitarian service can be joyful, inclusive and inspiring. When 31 clubs unite around one cause, friendship becomes partnership—and partnership becomes tangible change.

Together, we do more than raise funds. We create opportunities, strengthen communities and create lasting impact.



District 2483– Project for ‘Deliblato Sands’

On August 25, 2026, a successful delivery of aid was carried out for firefighters and volunteers in the “Delibratska peščara”, who are facing daily challenges due to large-scale wildfires and severe weather conditions. This initiative was the result of a swift and effective response by numerous Rotary clubs from Serbia and Montenegro, which immediately responded to the call for assistance and collected the necessary donations. We would especially like to highlight the outstanding role of the Rotary Club of Smederevo, which was at the heart of the organization and coordination of the entire initiative, demonstrating a true example of solidarity and social responsibility.

The delivery of aid was carried out with the support of the Red Cross of Kovin, whose Secretary, Maria Vasilić, worked closely with District Governor Daliborka Bradić to coordinate all the details in the days leading up to the delivery. As part of this initiative, and in coordination with RC Smederevo President Miloš Przić, District Coordinator for New Clubs Slobodan Jovanović, and ICC Marko Mitrasinović, the donations were immediately transferred and transported to the most critical locations in the “Delibratska peščara”.

These locations were selected to ensure that firefighters and volunteers in the field could refresh themselves, rest, and continue their difficult but essential work of fighting the fires and protecting property.

This initiative once again demonstrated the strength of our community and our readiness to organize quickly and provide assistance in the most difficult moments. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the clubs and individuals who contributed to collecting the aid, as well as to all the volunteers and emergency service personnel who put their lives at risk every day to ensure the safety and protection of our community.

United in solidarity, we have proven that together we can overcome every challenge and that help in action is the most beautiful expression of care and humanity.

We will continue to monitor the situation and, in accordance with the needs on the ground, will immediately organize additional deliveries of aid to ensure that everyone working in the field has the necessary resources to continue their work and protect lives.



Rotary Club Kotor - XIII Boka Cruise Raises €7,500 to Support Inclusive Education in Montenegro

More than 130 guests gathered on 18 July 2026 aboard the Katica for the eighth traditional Rotary Boka Cruise, a renowned humanitarian event organised by the Rotary Club of Kotor. The evening raised €7,500 through ticket sales, donations, and a charity raffle in support of the Global Grant project “Knowledge in Our Hands”, which aims to improve educational opportunities for children with special educational needs across Montenegro.

The event was honoured by the presence of Rotary District 2483 Governor Daliborka Bradić, who was on an official visit to the Rotary Club of Kotor. She highlighted the importance of the project, describing it as the largest Global Grant project in the history of District 2483, and praised the strong cooperation among Rotary clubs in Montenegro.

Governor Bradić also welcomed new members to the Rotary Club of Kotor and presented them with their Rotary membership pins, emphasising the importance of growing the Rotary family and inspiring future generations of community leaders.

Representatives of 19 Rotary clubs from six countries – Montenegro, Serbia, Albania, Italy, North Macedonia, and the United States – attended the event, alongside representatives of the Rotaract Club Bar, currently in formation. Distinguished guests included diplomatic representatives and Rotary Assistant Governors

The “Knowledge in Our Hands” project provides modern assistive equipment, specialised software, educational materials, and professional training for teachers and educational support specialists in schools and day-care centres throughout Montenegro. The Rotary Boka Cruise once again demonstrated the power of partnership, friendship, and collective action, showing how Rotary can bring people together to create meaningful and lasting change in the community.



Rotary club of Belgrade Wellbeing - Rotary Danube Alliance

When the landscape changes, photography can help us notice, understand and remember. This year, the Danube River has reached an exceptionally low water level, creating a significant environmental moment that deserves to be documented.

As part of the Rotary Danube Alliance, the Rotary Club Belgrade Wellbeing has launched a photography competition inviting both Rotarians and non-Rotarians to capture the Danube from their own perspective.

From 19 August to 19 September 2026, photography enthusiasts are invited to submit images showing the river and its unusually low water level. The initiative aims to create a visual record of this remarkable moment while encouraging greater public awareness of the importance of the Danube and the environmental challenges facing Europe's great waterways.

The competition also offers an opportunity to bring people together through a shared interest in photography and environmental awareness. Every image contributes to a wider story, helping communities see how the river is changing and why its future matters. Public voting will take place from 20 September to 4 October 2026, with the winning photograph selected according to the highest number of likes.

More than a photography competition, the initiative is an invitation to observe, document and care. By turning cameras towards the Danube, participants can help transform an environmental observation into a shared conversation about sustainability and responsibility. Through creativity and community participation, the Rotary Danube Alliance continues to demonstrate that meaningful awareness can begin with something as simple—and powerful—as taking a closer look at the world around us.



Rotary club Belgrade Wellbeing – and BUPBAP: A New Stage for Belgrade's Next Generation

Rotary Club of Belgrade Wellbeing is a partner of this amazing Belgrade Arts Platform and will support the young musicians participating in this festival.

This autumn, Belgrade gets a new cultural pulse. BUPBAP — the Belgrade Arts Platform — launches its first edition, a multidisciplinary festival built to put young artists and young audiences at the centre of the city's cultural life.

Founded by pianist and educator Olja Jacobs, a member of Rotary Club Belgrade Wellbeing, BUPBAP was conceived as a platform rather than a single stage — a space where music, dance, theatre, and visual art meet across disciplines instead of staying in separate rooms. The idea is deliberately generational: pair the city's most storied venues, from the Cathedral to the Philharmonic Hall, with the artists who will define its cultural future, and let young performers share programmes with established names rather than wait for a slot of their own.

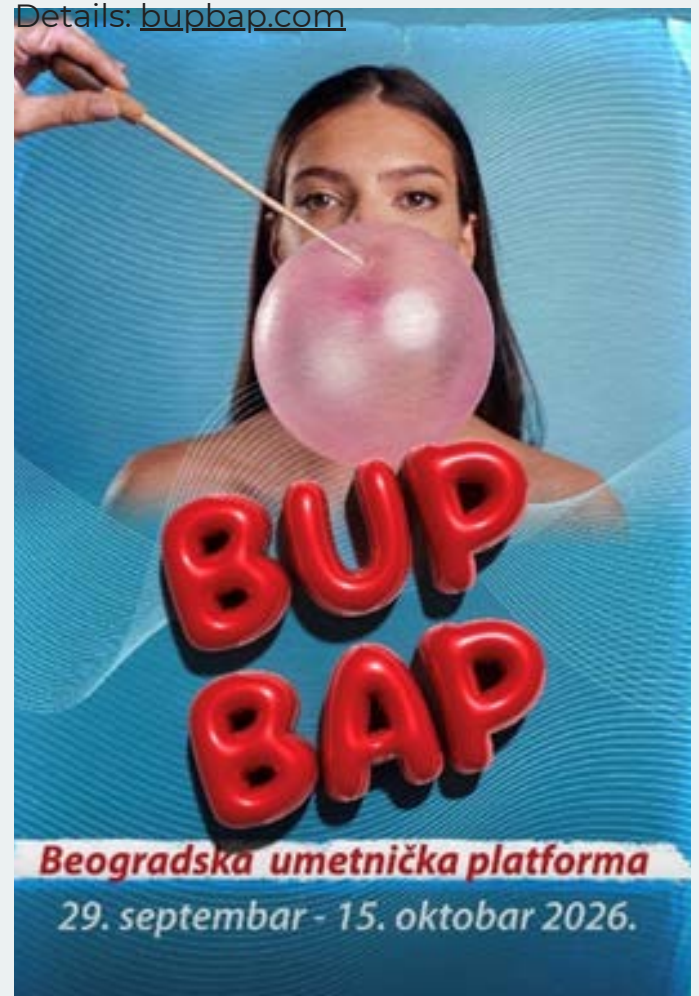
The inaugural edition reflects that ambition. Its opening night brings dance, theatre, and orchestral music onto a single stage around a world premiere by a young composer, performed alongside canonical twentieth-century works. Later programmes range from Baroque vocal music to a specially convened youth orchestra performing a rarely heard string commission — each one built to place emerging artists in direct dialogue with mentors and audiences.

At the heart of it all is The Art of Encounter, an educational strand designed to put emerging talent shoulder-to-shoulder with established artists — the same spirit of mentorship and service that drives Rotary's work with young people worldwide. For BUPBAP, culture is not something handed down to the next generation; it is something built with them, from the first edition onward.

"Culture doesn't survive by looking backward," said Olja Jacobs, Founder and Artistic Director. "BUPBAP exists to open the door for the generation coming up behind us — as artists, and as audiences."

BUPBAP runs 29 September–15 October 2026.

Details: bupbap.com



Rotary focus of the month – Membership and New Club Development

August is designated by Rotary International as Membership and New Club Development Month, with a focus on welcoming new members, strengthening existing clubs and supporting the creation of new clubs that respond to the needs of their communities.

In this spirit, during our visit to Montenegro, we held a meeting with the interested group for the establishment of Rotaract Club Bar. The meeting was attended by IPDRR Nikola Jelenković and ADRR Ksenija Otašević, as we discussed the vision, opportunities and next steps towards establishing a new Rotaract club in Bar. We can expect a new club forming by the end of February, 2027, and growing our community.

New clubs are essential to the future of our District. They bring fresh energy, new ideas and motivated young people who are ready to connect, lead and serve their communities. Growing membership is not only about numbers - it is about building a stronger community and creating more opportunities for young people to make a difference.

We are proud to support this initiative and look forward to seeing the group in Bar grow into a strong and active Rotaract club. Every new club means new connections, new opportunities and a greater capacity to create lasting impact.



Rotary Summer Party and acceptance of two new Rotaract members

On Saturday, 22 August 2026, Rotaractors from RAC Belgrade Centar, RAC Ćuprija Morava and RAC Niš attended the XVI Rotary Summer Party, organized in Budva by Rotary Club Budva and Rotaract Club Budva.

The donor dinner at Hotel Montenegro in Bečići brought together Rotarians and Rotaractors from across the region. We were also pleased to welcome Croatia's Country Representative, Marina Gruban. The event provided a great opportunity for fellowship, networking and sharing experiences, while supporting important charitable initiatives.

Special attention was given to the "Knowledge in Hands" global grant, aimed at improving educational conditions for children and young people with special educational needs throughout Montenegro, as well as scholarships for outstanding students from the Municipality of Budva. A particularly memorable moment for RAC Budva was the acceptance of two new members, bringing fresh energy and enthusiasm to the club.



Country representatives diaries – feedback from the CR weekend

As a member of the MDIO E.R.I.C. our District had the opportunity to take part in the Country Representatives Training, held in Valencia, Spain, in August 2027. Within E.R.I.C., our District is represented by two Country Representatives - one for Montenegro and one for Serbia. This year, Jovana Vanovac, president of RAC Stara Pazova is the CR for Serbia and she represented our District at the CR Weekend in Valencia. After her return, we sat down with her to hear more about her experience, the training sessions, the connections she made, and her overall impressions of the weekend. From learning and sharing experiences to connecting with Rotaractors from across Europe, the CR Weekend was a valuable opportunity to strengthen collaboration and bring new ideas back to our District.

Q: First CR Weekend, first term – was there more excitement or nervousness? Did you experience the weekend the way you imagined it?

A: Definitely, there was much more excitement! Of course, there is a certain amount of nervousness when you attend CR Weekend for the first time, especially when you don't yet know exactly who to expect, who you'll be sharing a room with, or who you'll be working alongside throughout the weekend. However, from the very beginning, I had the feeling that I was exactly where I was supposed to be. CR Weekend in Valencia, right in the middle of summer, was everything you could hope for – exciting, welcoming, and truly created a lasting impact

Q : What was your biggest “plot twist” during the weekend, and how did you handle it?

A: My biggest plot twist was realizing how quickly things can change and how important it is to remain calm and flexible in such situations. When you work with people, you simply cannot plan everything in advance – something unexpected will always come up. Instead of trying to control every situation, I learned to pause, take a step back, assess the situation, and trust someone else's plan and vision.

Q: If you could freeze one moment from this CR Weekend and keep it forever, which one would it be?

A: I would definitely save our first group dinner on the first day. We all gathered on the beach in Valencia, sat together, and for the first time had the opportunity to have this year's CR team all in one place. With local specialties, introductions and our first conversations, an incredible energy between us developed so naturally. I think that was the moment when we went from being a group of people meeting for the first time to becoming a team and a driving force for Rotaract Europe this year. That is exactly the feeling I would love to freeze and keep forever.



Country representatives diaries - feedback from the CR weekend

Q : What did you learn during this weekend that you will carry with you throughout the rest of your term as CR Serbia?

A: Once again, I was reminded of how much our differences actually contribute to and enrich every project, conversation and activity. Each of us brings different experiences, perspectives and ideas, and it is precisely from these differences that the most beautiful results emerge. CR Weekend reminded me once again how important it is to remain open to different perspectives, listen to others, and learn from one another.

Q: One piece of advice for the next CR who will be attending CR Weekend for the first time – what do you wish someone had told you?

A: I went to CR Weekend fairly well prepared, as I had previously worked closely with our CRs and also had the opportunity to socialize with some CRs from other countries. What I would like to share with future CRs is that this may be one of the most rewarding roles you can have. Through travelling, new experiences and a very informal environment, we have the opportunity to network, meet new people and further strengthen our relationships with members of Rotaract Europe. And most importantly - don't worry if you don't know anyone at first. Everyone is incredibly open, friendly, welcoming and fun, so you will very quickly feel like part of the group. Just come with an open mind and be ready to meet new people – everything else will come naturally.



Prizren, Kosovo

District 2485



DPIC Nora Siqeca
District 2485 (Albania&Kosovo)



Legacy Projects - Rotary for Education: 33 Years of Adopt a Student

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
DPIC Nora Siqueca

Investing in the Next Generation: Adopt a Student

For more than three decades, Rotary Club Tirana has been transforming lives through one of Albania's longest-running Rotary initiatives, Adopt a Student.

Established in 1993, the program supports outstanding university students facing financial hardship, helping them pursue and complete their higher education. Guided by the principles of merit, transparency, and equal opportunity, the initiative has become a lasting investment in the country's future leaders.

- Over the past 33 years, the project has:
- Supported more than 1,800 students;
- Invested over €250,000 in scholarships and financial assistance; and

Brought together more than 50 Rotary clubs from Albania and Italy, alongside foundations, universities, donors, and institutional partners committed to advancing education.

The program's success is built on close cooperation with Albanian universities and academic staff, ensuring that scholarships are awarded through a transparent process based on both academic excellence and financial need.

As Rotary begins another year of service, Adopt a Student remains a powerful example of how sustained commitment to education can create opportunities, strengthen communities, and empower future generations. Through projects like this, Rotary continues to invest not only in students, but in the future of Albania itself.



Rotaract



Caddebostan Rotaract Club – ORIGINS: A Journey to the Roots of Culture and Production - D2420 Türkiye

Caddebostan Rotaract Club launched ORIGINS, a Cultural Development series exploring the stories, traditions and craftsmanship behind different products and brands.

The series began with a three-day journey to İzmir, featuring visits to Efe Rakı and Urla Şarapçılık. Members explored two of Türkiye's long-established production traditions, learning about their raw materials, production techniques, geographical influences and cultural heritage—from distillation and anise-based rakı production to viticulture, fermentation and winemaking in the vineyards of Urla.

Beyond cultural discovery, the journey also strengthened inter-district Rotaract friendship.

Caddebostan Rotaractors came together with İzmir Ekonomi Rotaract Club from District 2440, exchanging ideas for future projects and collaborations.

Combining learning, exploration and fellowship, ORIGINS reflects a simple idea: to understand what we create, we must first discover where it comes from.



Akdeniz Rotaract Club - Steps That Leave a Mark Project - D2430 Türkiye

Akdeniz Rotaract Club continues its “Steps That Leave a Mark(İz Bırakan Adımlar)” project, launched last year to support the healthy development and daily-life participation of children aged 4–6 living in a residential child care home in Türkiye.

Led by club member and occupational therapist Alin Zekiye Tüz, the project includes sensory and developmental assessments, followed by regular therapy sessions for children identified as needing additional support. Caregivers are also provided with practical guidance on play, daily routines and environmental adaptations to help support each child’s development beyond therapy sessions.

This year, children who were assessed during the project’s first phase have moved into the intervention and therapy stage, while newly arrived children continue to be included in the assessment process.

Believing that every child’s developmental journey is unique, Akdeniz Rotaract Club aims to create lasting impact through early identification, professional guidance and continuous support—helping every child take stronger steps toward their full potential.



Ankara International Rotaract Club - From Memories to Hope D2430 Türkiye

To mark the beginning of the new term, Ankara International Rotaract Club and Ankara International Rotary Club joined forces for From Memories to Hope, a project combining community support with sustainability.

The clubs identified local families in need and assessed their essential household requirements. Gently used and functional household items donated by volunteers were then collected, matched with these needs, and delivered directly to the families.

By giving unused belongings a second life, the project not only provided practical support to families but also promoted responsible consumption and reduced waste.

Through the collaboration of Rotary, Rotaract and dedicated volunteers, From Memories to Hope transformed items carrying memories from one home into hope and meaningful support for another, strengthening a culture of solidarity, sharing and sustainability within the community.



Ankara International Rotaract Club -Cultural Exchange: Türkiye Meets India D2430 Türkiye

Ankara International Rotaract Club launched another edition of its traditional Cultural Exchange project together with Arka Jain University (School of Commerce and Management) Rotaract Club from Rotary International District 3250, India.

The project began with an exchange of specially designed club letterheads, symbolizing the friendship established between the two clubs. On August 23, 2026, members then came together for an online cultural exchange meeting.

Through presentations and conversations, Rotaractors introduced their countries, traditions, cuisines, daily lives and club cultures, discovering both the similarities and differences between Türkiye and India.

More than a cultural exchange, the meeting created new friendships, broadened perspectives and strengthened international connections—reflecting Rotaract's ability to bring young people together across borders through fellowship and mutual understanding.



Mersin Rotaract Club - Growing Month by Month D2430 Türkiye

In August, Mersin Rotaract Club launched Growing Month by Month, a public awareness project providing accessible and reliable information on postpartum maternal health and babies' development during their first six months.

With contributions from specialists in obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics and psychology, the club prepared an informative guide covering postpartum recovery, emotional changes and depression, breastfeeding, mother-baby bonding and family support. The guide also followed infant development month by month, addressing nutrition, sleep, safe care, vaccinations and key developmental milestones.

On August 8, 2026, Rotaractors met with the community at Sayapark Shopping Mall in Mersin, distributing the guide and raising awareness about maternal and infant health.

By transforming professional knowledge into clear and accessible information, the project aimed to empower expectant and new mothers and contribute to healthier beginnings for future generations.



Tarsus Rotaract Club - Technology Classroom Project D2430 Türkiye

On June 14, 2026, Tarsus Rotaract Club and Bostancı Rotaract Club joined forces to establish a fully equipped Technology Classroom at Kazım Taşkın Primary School.

Created to promote equal access to educational opportunities, the project aims to provide primary school students with greater access to technology and digital learning resources, supporting modern learning and helping them develop essential skills for the future.

Together, the two clubs transformed a classroom into a new digital learning environment, providing 10 laptops, a printer, projector and screen, along with the necessary computer accessories and equipment.

Beyond its contribution to education, the project demonstrated the power of inter-district collaboration and Rotaract fellowship. Through this sustainable initiative, Tarsus and Bostancı Rotaract Clubs are investing not only in technology, but in children's potential-creating new opportunities to learn, explore and build their futures with confidence.



Tarsus Rotaract Club - Hello Kit-ty: A Small Kit, A Meaningful Impact D2430 Turkiye

Inspired by Rotary International's focus on Maternal and Child Health, Tarsus Rotaract Club launched the "Hello Kit-ty" Project to support families in need while raising awareness about the importance of maternal and child well-being.

At Tarsus Anıt Family Health Center, the club distributed 30 carefully prepared baby care kits to families in need. Each kit included essential items such as diapers, diaper cream, wet wipes, a teething toy and a baby bottle, helping families meet some of their children's everyday hygiene and care needs.

For Tarsus Rotaract Club, Hello Kit-ty represents more than providing essential supplies. It is about standing beside mothers, contributing to children's healthy development and turning awareness into meaningful action.

With the belief that healthy children and supported families form the foundation of stronger communities, the project demonstrates how even a small act of care can create a lasting impact.





***CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT***

District Governors' Corner

Common Projects – From Individual Contribution to Collective Impact

In Rotary, we know well that mobilization is the moment when intention meets action. And if mobilization is the starting point, then common projects are its first visible expression. They are the point where personal sensitivity and the willingness to serve are transformed into collective strength with a real and meaningful impact.

We often focus on the outcome of a project: the people who benefited, the needs that were addressed, the change that was achieved. All of these are important. Yet behind every successful project lies something equally valuable: the relationship that is built among the people who choose to move forward together. The essence of a common project lies not only in what it ultimately delivers, but also in what is created along the way — trust, collaboration, and the certainty that no one is alone when there is a shared purpose.

The great strength of Rotary is not simply that it brings together people who are committed to service. It is that it transforms this willingness into collective action. It calls upon us to combine our knowledge, experience, and talents so that, together, we can achieve far more than any of us could accomplish alone. In this way, something much more meaningful than a simple activity is born: a community of people creating lasting positive change.



Charalampos Tinginagkas
Governor 2026-2027
RI District 2475 - Greece

This becomes particularly important in today's world, where isolation, fatigue, and fragmentation often challenge our faith in collective effort.

In such an environment, every Rotary common project serves as a quiet yet powerful reminder that collaboration is not simply a way to achieve a goal. It is a deeply human choice — one that gives hope greater endurance and service a deeper sense of meaning.

Common Projects – From Individual Contribution to Collective Impact

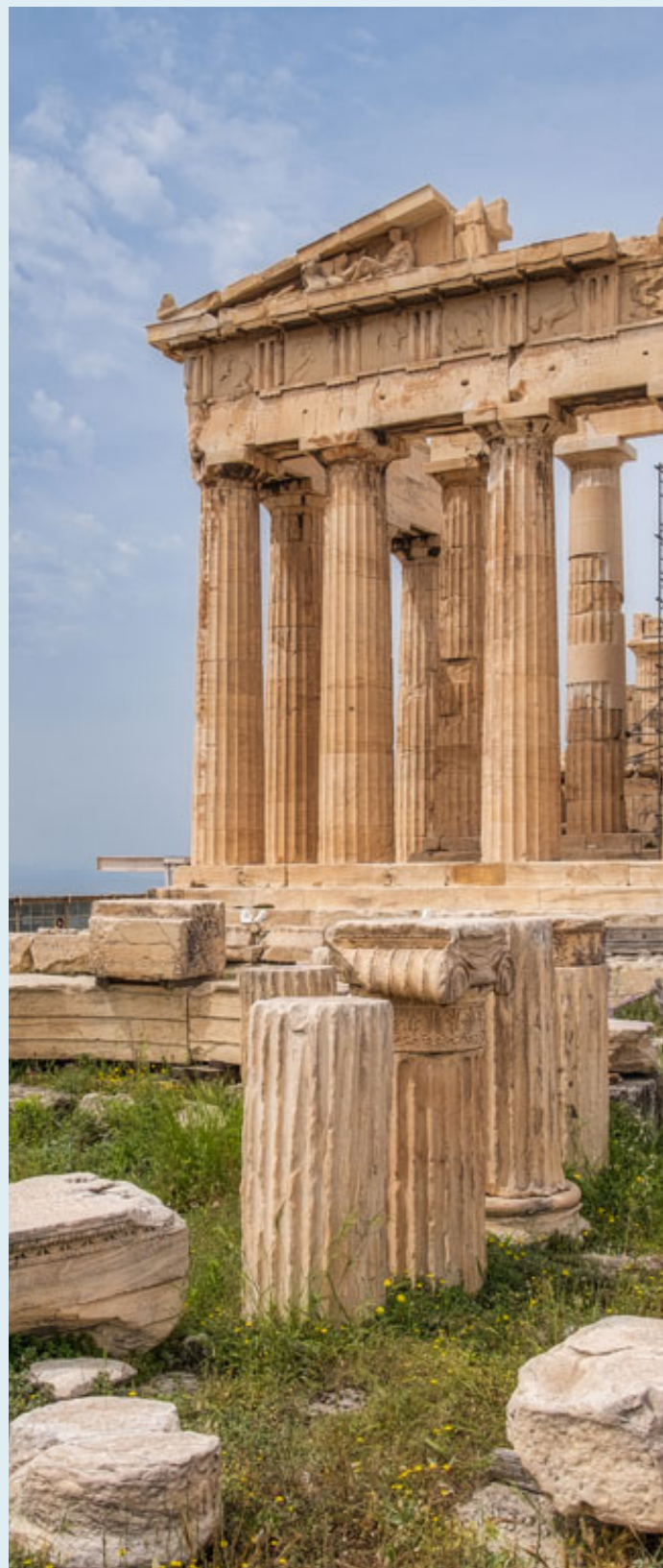
The journey from individual contribution to collective impact transforms not only our communities, but also ourselves. We learn to listen more, to collaborate more meaningfully, and to place our trust not only in our own abilities, but also in the strength of the team. Perhaps this is one of the most meaningful, although less visible, impacts of volunteer service.

The presidential message for this year, Create Lasting Impact, calls us to look beyond the moment. To ask ourselves not only what we are doing today, but also what will remain tomorrow. In common projects, the legacy we leave is not only the material or social value of an intervention. It is the experience of solidarity, the trust that is renewed within the community, and the evidence that when people come together with a shared purpose, they can create change that endures.

That is why let us continue to invest not only in activities, but also in relationships. Not only in ideas, but also in partnerships. Because, in the end, common projects are not only about what we do.

They are about what we become through them.

When the hearts of many people beat for a common purpose, service gains depth, lasting value, and true meaning. Then mobilization becomes a journey. And then the impact we leave is found not only in the communities we serve, but also within ourselves.



THE UNIFYING POWER OF THE POMEGRANATE, THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF THE KEY

We believe in the unifying power of the pomegranate.

Inside a single pomegranate there are hundreds of seeds.

Each one is different, yet together they form a whole, abundance, and life. Just like our society ...

The pomegranate has been for thousands of years in these lands a symbol of abundance, sharing, and solidarity.

Drawing inspiration from this heritage, we bring our differences together and unite our strength for the common good.

The pomegranate key I hold in my hand is a symbol of this understanding. Because in Rotary each of our members is like a pomegranate seed. With our different talents, experiences and dreams, coming together, we make a greater, more effective, and more lasting impact.

But what does this key represent? This key unlocks opportunities, hopes, and solutions.

It is the key that opens the doors to education, the paths to healthcare, to clean water, and to a sustainable future.

Most importantly, it is the key that touches people's lives and transforms them.

To be a Rotarian means to take this key into our hands.

Not for ourselves, but for others.

For a brighter future.

For a stronger community.

Because we believe that;



Aylin Olut Ötken,
Governor 2026-2027
RI District 2440 - Türkiye

together we are stronger,
by sharing we are richer,
and by serving we can change the world.

__Come, let us combine the unifying power of the pomegranate with the transformative power of the key. Let us open more doors, change more lives, and make them stronger.__

For a better world, together.

Aylin Olut Otken
RI District 2440
Governor 2026-2027

Knowledge is a Legacy That Endures

Dear fellow Rotarians, Rotaractors and Interactors,

September brings one of the most important issues for every society back into focus – education.

Schoolyards are once again filled with children. For first-year pupils, an unfamiliar adventure is beginning, while older students return to their friends, teachers and the challenges of a new school year. Parents send them into their classrooms with the hope that there they will gain knowledge, confidence and support for their future.

For Rotary, September is Basic Education and Literacy Month, dedicated to a cause whose impact can be measured across generations.

Today, literacy means far more than the ability to read and write. It includes the ability to understand what we read, to ask questions, to distinguish fact from manipulation, to use technology wisely and to make informed decisions.

We live in a time of almost unlimited access to information. That is precisely why critical thinking, checking sources and the ability to assess the credibility of content are becoming essential skills.

Education is freedom. It gives people the opportunity to choose their profession and their path, to make their own decisions and to turn their abilities and dreams into reality. One-off assistance may solve a problem for a day. Access to education provides knowledge and skills that enable people to shape their own tomorrow.



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

That is why investing in education is one of the most long-term forms of support.

A single book can change the direction of a child's life, a teacher can discover an overlooked talent, and a mentor can restore a young person's confidence. A well-designed Rotary project can transform the environment in which generations of children grow up. That is lasting impact.

This September, let us look beyond traditional donations of books, equipment and school supplies and first ask what children and young people in our communities truly need. Sometimes the most valuable resources we can give are our knowledge, professional experience and time.

Alexander Petrov, Governor 2026-2027, District 2482

Among us are doctors, engineers, teachers, entrepreneurs, lawyers, farmers, people from the worlds of science, culture and the arts. Each of us carries knowledge and life experience that can be invaluable to a young person. Let us talk to young people, introduce them to our professions, become mentors and partners to teachers. Let us work with Interact and Rotaract not only for young people, but together with them. The best way to prepare the next generation of leaders is to give them opportunities to take responsibility today.

During the first two months of my year as District Governor, I have been travelling extensively across Bulgaria. I have met different clubs, cities and local challenges. What they all have in common are people who know their communities, understand their needs and are looking for ways to make a difference.

In August, I had the opportunity to spend time with our friends from the Rotary Clubs of Blagoevgrad-Centrum, Bansko-Razlog, Razgrad, Popovo, Kardzhali, Momchilgrad, Zlatograd-Nedelino, Elena, Gabrovo and Smolyan.

These meetings have reinforced one of my convictions: there is no small club when there is a big idea, and there is no small community when there are people willing to take action.

In Bansko, we once again experienced the strength of Rotary fellowship, while at Shipka we came together to honour the memory of those to whom we owe the freedom we enjoy today. These meetings and occasions remind me of the many dimensions of the community to which we belong.

September will be an active month for our District.

My official club visits will continue, and from 10 to 13 September I will take part in the Rotary European Action Summit 2026 in Rotterdam, dedicated to topics including membership, The Rotary Foundation, Rotaract and mental health. Throughout the month, we will also focus our efforts on preparing for the “Vibrant Club” forum, which awaits us in November.

This month, we also commemorate two important dates for Bulgaria. On 6 September, Unification Day, we are reminded of the strength of collective will and how important it is to stand together around a common goal. On 22 September, we celebrate Bulgaria’s Independence Day. Independence also has a personal dimension. It is built through knowledge, education and the ability to think independently.

Dear friends,

Throughout this year, we are speaking about leaving a lasting legacy. Knowledge is a legacy that does not fade with time. When we pass it on to a child, it continues to live through their decisions and actions and can transform not only their own life, but also the lives of their family, their community and people we may never meet.

Let us not simply pass on knowledge. Let us help young people turn it into their own path.

Yours in Rotary,

Alexander Petrov

Governor 2026-2027

RI District 2482 Bulgaria

Dear Rotarians,
Dear Rotaractors,

September always feels like Rotary's true new year to me. The excitement of July has settled into steady rhythm, and this is when real momentum begins. This month, Rotary shines its light on Basic Education and Literacy Month, and I want to use this space not to hand you a checklist, but to hand you a challenge.

Every one of us can point to a teacher, a parent, a mentor, or a book that arrived exactly when we needed it — someone who decided our future was worth investing in. That is the work Rotary does. Not the flashy work. The kind that quietly reshapes an entire life, and often the lives that follow it.

This year, RI President Olayinka Hakeem Babalola has called on all of us to Create Lasting Impact. That phrase is a genuine test, not "did we do something," but "will it still be standing after we've moved on?" A single book drive feels good. A literacy program a club nurtures for years, that partners with real educators and tracks real outcomes — that is lasting impact.

I have seen what this looks like when a club commits fully, a small library that starts with a single donated shelf and grows into a room children run to after school; a scholarship that turns one graduate into a teacher who then opens the same door for someone else. That is the ripple Rotary creates, and it starts with one club, one decision, one September.



Florentina Dushi
Governor 2026–2027
RI District 2485 Albania & Kosovo

So here is my ask, to every club in every district reading this: choose one classroom, one shelf of books, one child who needs someone to believe in them and act, this month. Not because a calendar told us to, but because it is genuinely who we are.

To every Rotarian giving your evenings, your ideas, and your heart to this organization: thank you. I see it, and it is a privilege to serve alongside you this year.

With gratitude and Rotary spirit,
Florentina Dushi
District Governor 2026–2027

Grow with Purpose • Welcome with Heart

Dear Fellow Rotarians, Rotaractors, and Friends,

What if the next person who could transform your club is simply waiting for an invitation?

August is Membership Month; a perfect moment to remind ourselves that **Rotary membership is not about numbers; it is about people.**

Every member brings a story, a talent, an idea, a friendship, and the potential to make a difference. When we welcome the right people, engage them meaningfully, and help them grow, our clubs become stronger—and our service becomes more powerful.

This year, District 2452 has set an ambitious **goal of 10% net membership growth**. But our ambition goes beyond a number. We want to **build healthy, dynamic and welcoming clubs where people feel that they truly belong.**

Who are we missing?

I encourage every club to look especially toward **young professionals, Rotary alumni and Rotaractors**. They bring energy, innovation, digital skills, fresh perspectives and new ways of thinking.

Let us move from asking:

“Why would anyone join our club?” to asking:

“Who are we missing, and how can we invite them to belong?”

Healthy clubs. Engaged members. Future leaders.



May Monla Chmaitilly

Governor 2026–2027

RI District 2452

Our goal of **100% Club Health Checks** is not an inspection or a judgment. It is a mirror, a chance for every club to honestly look at what is working, what can improve, and how we can create greater opportunities for engagement and renewal.

And membership does not end when someone joins.

May Monla Chmaitilly, Governor 2026–2027, District 2452

Our goal of establishing a **mentorship culture in at least 70% of our clubs** reminds us that every new member deserves someone who welcomes them, guides them, listens to them and helps them discover their place in Rotary.

Finally, across our nine-country District, we aim to establish at least **one new club or satellite club in each country**, creating new and flexible ways for people to connect with Rotary and serve their communities.

My Membership Challenge to You

This August, I ask every Rotarian to take four simple actions:

INVITE one person to discover Rotary.

WELCOME every new member with genuine warmth.

MENTOR someone and help them grow.

ENGAGE in making your club a place where people want to belong.

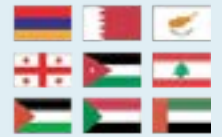
Because **Membership is everyone's responsibility.**

When we grow our membership, we strengthen our clubs.

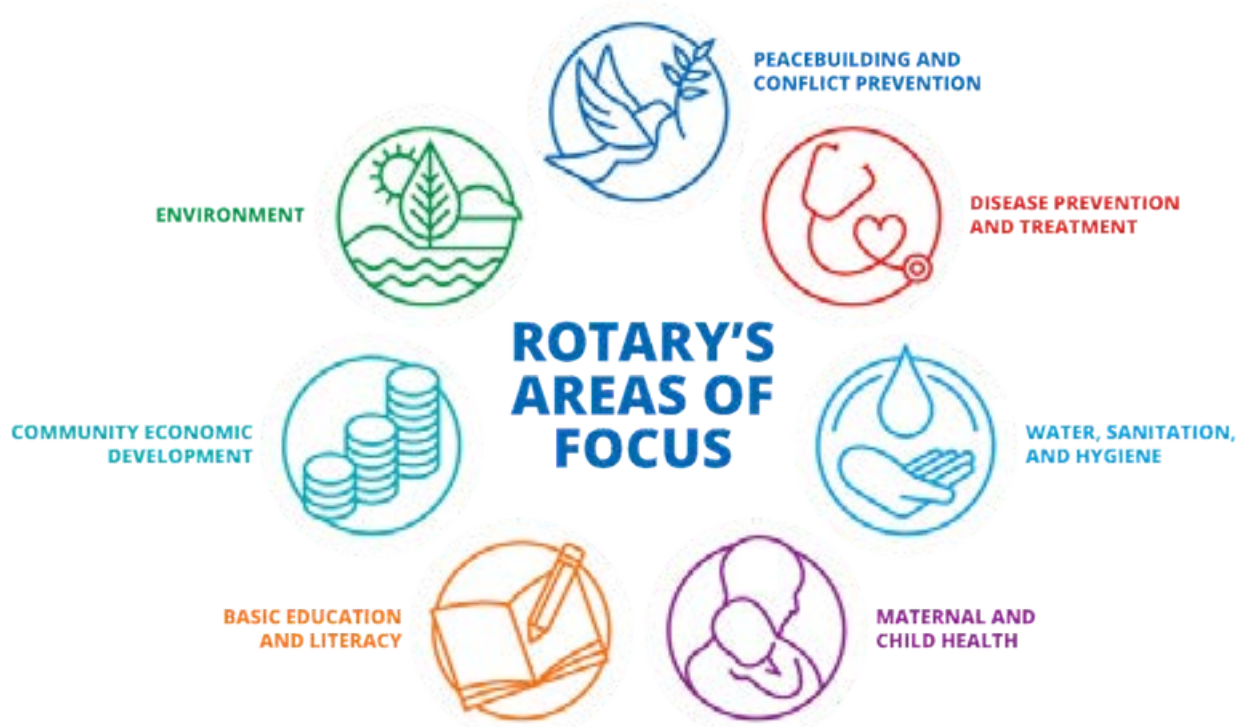
When we strengthen our clubs, we strengthen our service.

And when we strengthen our service, **we create lasting impact.**

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



The Rotary Foundation



Trustee Chair's Message



Jeniffer Jones

Foundation Trustee Chair 2026/2027

Make polio history

This month, I want to have some fun and do a little preplanning exercise for World Polio Day on 24 October. Are you with me?

Each year, World Polio Day gives us a moment to pause, reflect, and recommit to the promise Rotary made to the world that no child, anywhere, will ever again suffer the devastating effects of polio. This year, that moment feels especially powerful.

President Yinka has challenged all of us to “better our best,” and I want to echo that call with a challenge of my own. Look honestly at what your club has done to support polio eradication. If your efforts have been strong, stretch further. If your club has not yet engaged in our No. 1 corporate priority, begin now by making a gift of at least US\$1,500 at endpolio.org/donate.

That single act of generosity will do much more than you may realize. Thanks to the Gates Foundation’s 2-to-1 match, every dollar becomes three. Together, we can reach our annual goal of \$50 million and finish the job Rotary began.

Each step brings us closer to a world where polio exists only in history books. But numbers alone do not tell the whole story. Above all, polio eradication is a human endeavor — built on courage, compassion, and the belief that service can reshape the future.

On World Polio Day, I will be spending time in a place that symbolizes exactly that. It is a location unlike any I have ever visited, and I look forward to revealing it in real time on social media. I will be having a creative (and fun) time while using this as an opportunity to shine light on those whose work embodies Rotary’s highest ideals — health workers, volunteers, and community leaders who stand on the front lines of disease prevention

Later this year, President Yinka and I will be traveling to Pakistan to meet with many of these leaders to express our personal gratitude. They are the reason we have come so far and must finish what we started.

As you prepare for World Polio Day, I ask you to join me in spirit and in action. Host an event. Tell the story of Rotary’s leadership. Invite your community to participate. Make your club’s gift. And above all, help us build momentum that carries into the months ahead.

And for all my puzzle-loving friends, here is a clue to my personal location on 24 October: “Polio with the _ E _ _ U _ _ S.”

Peace as a Project, Not a Wish: Rotary's Contribution

On the occasion of the International Day of Peace

Every year, on **September 21**, the world pauses for a moment to remember something we often take for granted: **Peace**. The **UN's International Day of Peace** is not merely a symbolic date; it is a call to action, a reminder that peace is not imposed: it is built, day by day, through projects, institutions, and people who believe in it.

Rotary, since its founding in 1905, has had peace woven into its DNA. It is no accident that its founder, Paul Harris, envisioned an organization that would unite professionals from different countries, cultures, and religions around a common value: service to others. That union was, in itself, already an act of peace. Today, with more than 1.4 million members across more than 200 countries and geographic areas, **Rotary stands as one of the largest networks of peaceful cooperation on the planet**: people who, regardless of nationality or political view, sit at the same table to solve shared problems.

Peace as an Area of Focus

Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention/Resolution is one of Rotary's official areas of focus. It is not an abstract idea, but a set of concrete programs: support for refugees and displaced populations, mediation programs in communities under tension, training for young leaders in dialogue skills, and, perhaps the most emblematic project of all, the **Rotary Peace Centers**.



Panayiotis T. Katrougalos
2026-2029 RFC Zone21b, Region 25

The Peace Centers: Where Peace Leaders Are Built

Since 2002, The Rotary Foundation, in partnership with leading universities around the world, has operated the Rotary Peace Centers: today numbering eight, located in countries such as England, Sweden, Japan, the United States, Australia, Uganda, Türkiye, and, now, India. Each year, hundreds of professionals with experience in peace and development receive fully funded Rotary Peace Fellowships, either toward a master's degree or a professional development certificate.

The most recent, and particularly significant, step in this journey came in January 2026, with the inauguration of the new Peace Center at Symbiosis International University in Pune, India. It is the eighth Rotary Peace Center in the world, and the first in South Asia. The new center will offer a one-year postgraduate

Peace as a Project, Not a Wish: Rotary's Contribution

diploma program in Peace and Development Studies, aimed at experienced professionals from across Asia, with the first group of fellows beginning their studies in early 2027. The choice of India is no accident: a country of immense cultural, religious, and social diversity offers ideal ground for cultivating leaders who learn to navigate conflict with empathy and innovation.

The fellowships cover tuition and fees, housing, meals, transportation, and internship expenses, meaning they give people from around the world, regardless of financial means, the opportunity to gain the tools they need to become catalysts for peace in their communities. Since the program began, more than 1,800 graduates now work in over 140 countries, many of them in governments, NGOs, educational institutions, peacekeeping bodies, and international organizations such as the UN and the World Bank. Each year, up to 170 new fellowships are awarded to emerging peace leaders.

This is not simply an educational program. It is an investment in people who, wherever they end up, will carry with them knowledge, a network, and a commitment to the peaceful resolution of conflict, for decades to come.

Why We Must Support the Peace Centers

The Peace Centers exist thanks to the generosity of donors around the world. Every gift to The Rotary Foundation directed toward the Peace Centers

translates directly into one more fellowship, one more trained leader, one more community gaining access to knowledge for preventing and resolving conflict.

In a world where armed conflicts, refugee crises, and tensions between peoples continue to multiply, investing in the training of peacebuilders is not a luxury, it is a necessity. Wishing for peace is not enough; we must fund it, teach it, and institutionalize it.

As Rotarians, we have the ability, and one could say the responsibility, to support this work. A donation to The Rotary Foundation, even a small one, becomes part of a mechanism that has proven, for more than two decades, that it works: it trains people who genuinely change the world for the better.

This year, on the occasion of the International Day of Peace, let us turn the symbolism of the day into action: let us support the Rotary Peace Centers. Because peace is not a condition we passively wait for: it is a project we build together, one leader, one fellowship, one donation at a time.

To support the Rotary Peace Centers, visit rotary.org/give or reach out to your District's Rotary Foundation Committee.



END
POLIO
NOW

End Polio Now Coordinator



Millions of children across Africa will continue to be protected not only from polio but also from other dangerous diseases through the systems built over decades of eradication work. Health ministers from the WHO African Region have adopted a new ten-year framework designed to safeguard these achievements and transform them into a foundation for stronger, more resilient national health systems.

The Framework for Polio Transition and Sustainability in the WHO African Region 2026–2035 calls for the preservation of disease surveillance networks, laboratories, trained personnel, emergency-response capacity, etc. It prioritises routine immunisation, sustainable domestic financing, integration of essential polio functions into national health systems. [WHO Regional Office for Africa](#)

Africa was certified free of indigenous wild poliovirus in 2020, but the risk has not disappeared.

Nikola Božić

Rotary E-Club of Serbia, D2483

EPNC 2024-2027, Region 25

Africa Turns Polio Eradication Efforts into a Legacy of Stronger Healthcare

More than 180 poliovirus detections have already been reported across the region in 2026. Infrastructure developed to fight polio is now supporting responses to Ebola, cholera, others. [Global Polio Eradication Initiative](#)

Rotary's long-term commitment has been central to this progress. The organisation launched its first large-scale polio immunisation initiative in the Philippines in 1979 and became a founding partner of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative in 1988. Rotary has contributed more than US\$2.9 billion, mobilised countless volunteer hours and helped protect more than three billion children in 122 countries. Its advocacy has also helped secure over US\$11 billion in government funding. [Rotary International](#)

The new framework shows that Rotary's contribution will not end with the final case of polio.

Victory Day Spirit and Rotary Action in Beylikdüzü

In Beylikdüzü, August 30 Victory Day became a moment of **remembrance, fellowship and public Rotary action.**

Beylikdüzü Rotary Club's traditional Victory Parade brought Rotarians into the streets to share the joy and meaning of the national celebration with the wider community. The event also strengthened Rotary's visibility and supported the global fight against polio.

The parade was attended by District 2420 Governor Erden Gökmen, DS Aslı Ağaoğlu, AG Polat Özcan, Beylikdüzü RC President Özgür Kayacık, Alkent 2000 RC President Şeyma Demir, Barbaros Metropolitan RC PP Yıldız Özalp and fellow Rotarians.

The Journey in Doing Service Above Self
RPIC Tanya Georgieva

Through banners, public presence and television interviews, **Rotarians shared Rotary's values directly with citizens. A T-shirt campaign** organised as part of the event contributed to the **Polio donation** project, with support also coming from clubs and Rotarians who could not attend the parade.

The celebration honoured all martyrs and veterans who fought for independence, especially Gazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. It was a powerful reminder that Rotary can carry legacy into the future — through visibility, solidarity and action that creates lasting impact.



Ideas For EndPolio



John Hewko

a day ago · 🌐



I had the pleasure of meeting three Rotarians from Italy who are taking on an incredible challenge: biking Route 66 from Chicago to Santa Monica to raise funds for [End Polio Now](#).

Thank you to Simone Belleggia, Nazzareno Prenna, and Walter Agostini of the Rotary Club Civitanova Marche in District 2090 for turning their passion for adventure into support for [#EndPolio](#).

Safe travels on the road ahead! 🚲 See less





Regional & International Events



INTERCOUNTRY
COMMITTEES
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Intercountry Committees and Fellowships

Uniting Rotarians Across Borders



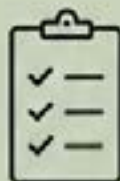
LEADERS' TOOLBOX

One practical guide for clubs and district teams

ONE PAGE. ONE SKILL. ONE ACTION.



What is...?



How to...



Practical Guides



Quick Answers

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

The Power of Example: How to Turn a Cause into a Movement

Many organizations and individuals believe that a good deed speaks for itself. However, the logic of social influence - the ability to change the thoughts and actions of others - teaches us the opposite: **the invisible cannot be followed**. Visibility is not vanity; it is the way we transform quiet effort into a public movement.

The Value of Sharing: What do people gain when they talk about us?

In digital world, what we share is our face to the world. When a club is recognizable for its meaningful content, it stops being just an organization or a branch of one - **it becomes a source of personal prestige for its followers**.

A sense of belonging to something bigger. We provide our followers with information while simultaneously giving them the feeling of being part of a worthy cause. This satisfies one of the deepest human needs - **the need to belong to a community with a meaningful mission**.

A tool for self-expression. People subconsciously choose to share content that makes them look smarter, kinder, or better informed in the eyes of their friends and colleagues. Our activity as Rotarians becomes their way of saying: "This is what matters to me; I am a person with values." **"Material" to shine with.** When our posts are inspiring and visually polished, we provide our followers with a ready-made resource to showcase their engagement. We help them build authority within their own circles.

From followers to ambassadors. When people feel significant through our cause, they stop being passive observers. They become natural ambassadors for our initiatives because sharing our successes makes them feel like co-authors of the change.

The Principle of Social Proof: "What is seen, is repeated"

At the heart of every great movement lies a simple rule: **"If something is made to be seen, it is made to be imitated."**

When our actions are public, they cease to be isolated events and transform into a model for others to follow.

Visibility creates trust through the "power of example." The human brain is programmed to seek safety in the group. When we see that others already support a cause, our subconscious barriers fall, and we trust much more easily. Visibility is the sign that "the path is already well-trodden" and it is safe to follow. Our followers watch us and, at the same time, feel reassured that their choice to follow us is the right one.

Trust attracts partners through energy and life. Potential partners rarely look for "good intentions" alone. They look for evidence of capacity, resilience, and pulse. The visibility of our projects is undeniable proof that our idea is alive, evolving, and has a future. When we are visible, we demonstrate that our mission is worth the investment of resources.

Partnerships as an everyday "trigger" for attention. Every new partnership acts as a reminder that brings public attention

The Power of Example: **How to Turn a Cause into a Movement**

back to our mission. These collaborations are the living link to people's daily lives - they appear where our followers live, work, and have fun. In this way, our cause is not just "something on the internet"; it is a real part of the world around them.

Creating a Space for Trust

True change happens through deep understanding. When we make our cause relatable, human, and accessible, we do not force others to follow us - we open the door, and our followers discover for themselves the meaning in stepping through it. Trust is born where there is clarity. To build it, we must first stop confusing the tools with the ultimate goal:

The project is not the impact itself. The project is merely the means, the framework within which we work. True impact is that invisible and lasting change in people's lives that continues to exist long after the project has officially concluded.

The event is not the change itself. The event is only the spark that attracts attention. True change is the slow accumulation of new evidence and experiences that gradually shift the way society thinks and feels.

The donation is not the end result. The donation is the resource - the fuel that allows us to set out on the journey. The result is the meaningful story of a transformed destiny that we can tell thanks to that resource.

The Power of the Embedded Message

The best way to convey our mission is by embedding it into a compelling story - one that people want to pass on as their own. Instead of sharing only the finish line, we make the entire process visible. We show the efforts, the small victories, and even the challenges in a way that is impossible to ignore.

When an organization is visible, it does something more than just inform. It becomes the catalyst for a movement that everyone wants to join, because they see in it not just someone else's activity, but a piece of their own better world.

We believe that meaning deserves to be seen. When we turn our projects into living stories, we give society something more than results - we give it hope and direction. Let good ideas not remain in silence. Let us turn them into a movement that is impossible to ignore.

Galya Atanasova
District Brand Officer, D2482
Member of Zone21b Public Image Team



The "Secret Meetings" Concept Turns Meetings into Experiences

The essence of "**secret meetings**" isn't about hiding information - it's about **transforming an experience into a privilege** that inspires people to talk about it.

One of the main **challenges** facing any leading organization today is **maintaining high interest and engagement among its members**. Contemporary social psychology and marketing have long proven that elements of surprise, uniqueness, and special access create exceptionally strong Social Currency - the natural desire people have to share and be part of something inspiring.

For Rotary - an organization that prides itself on openness, transparency, and service to the community - this principle doesn't mean closed doors. On the contrary, it serves as a tool to turn a standard meeting into an unforgettable, value-added experience.

Why Does the "Surprise Factor" Work for Our Meetings?

• **From Routine to Experience** - when an event features an element of the

unexpected or special access, its perceived value multiplies for everyone attending.

• **Social Currency and Public Proof** -

attending a truly unique meeting naturally makes us want to share it. This generates positive public attention and showcases Rotary as a modern, dynamic organization.

• **Inspiration Through Discovery** - instead of exclusivity, this is about revealing new horizons -accessing causes, historical sites, innovations, or inspiring individuals that usually fall outside our daily focus.

Three High-Value Meeting Concepts Featuring the "Surprise Factor":

Secret Venue

The location is open to everyone, but it's revealed at the very last minute—such as a restoration lab, a newly discovered cultural heritage site, or an innovative local business. This format turns a standard gathering into a cultural or educational experience, supporting the local community by spotlighting remarkable, lesser-known places.



The "Secret Meetings" Concept Turns Meetings into Experiences

Behind the Scenes

The meeting takes place directly at the site of an active club project, giving members and guests an insider's look before its official launch. This format highlights the complete transparency of our work and inspires attendees through real, tangible results of our collective efforts.

Mystery Speaker

The speaker and topic remain a surprise, with only an intriguing teaser provided beforehand. The guest could be a specialized expert, an artist, or a community leader. This approach centers attention entirely on the person and the cause, strips away preconceived notions, and makes the meeting genuinely exciting.

How to Put This into Practice While Maintaining Complete Openness:

•Build Curiosity, Not Secrecy

use teasers like "Something different is coming..." to spark interest without leaving anyone out.

•Invite Guests and Prospective Members

surprises leave the strongest impression on people experiencing Rotary for the first time. An intriguing format is a fantastic way to showcase the club's energy.

•Share Openly After the Event

posting photos, videos, and stories afterward shows the community that Rotary is a vibrant, innovative, and welcoming organization worth joining.

Changing up the format doesn't require a large budget - just a spark of imagination and the courage to try something different. The payoff is always the same: a full room, great fellowship, and a meeting people keep talking about long after it's over.

When we turn routine into an experience, we do more than just retain member interest - we create stories worth sharing. And it's precisely those stories that make our community visible, attractive, and truly alive.

Galya Atanasova
District Brand Officer, D2482
Member of Zone21b Public Image Team



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Meet the TEAM



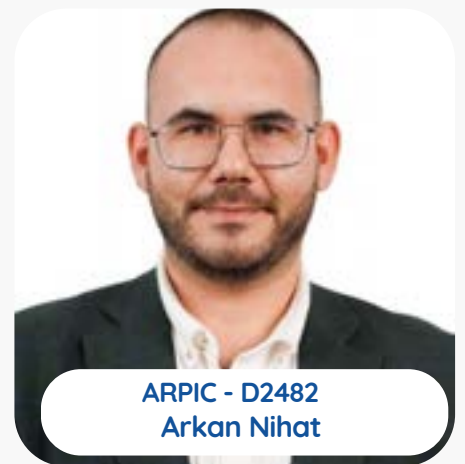
RPIC 2026-2029
Tanya Georgieva



PRPIC 2023-2026
PDG N. Altan Arslan, D2430



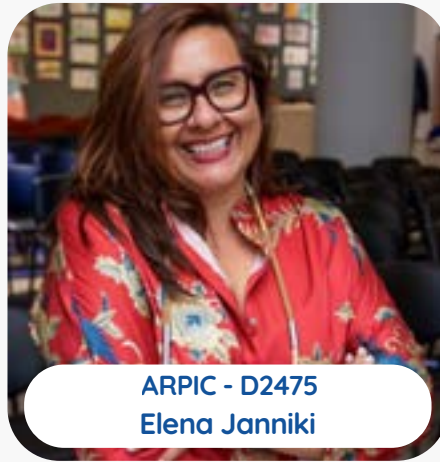
ARPIC - D2483
PDG Aleksandar Radojicic



ARPIC - D2482
Arkan Nihat



ARPIC - D2420, D2430, D2440
Ayşe Mine Ergun



ARPIC - D2475
Elena Janniki



ARPIC - D2452
Faisal Juma



ARPIC - RAC
Foteini Papadimou



ARPIC - RAC
Cemre Başkır



ARPIC - D2420, D2430, d2440
Serdar Aydın

Meet the Advisors & Supporters



Past RPIC 2023-2026
PDG N. Altan Arslan, D2430



Past RPIC 2020-2023
PDG Nijad Al Atassi, D2452



Past PRPIC
PDG Gunes Ertas, D2440



Past ARPIC - D2475
Maria Mastora



Past ARPIC - D2452
Sertac Gumus



Technical advisor
Cengiz Turgay



Rtn. PP Ömer BAŞBUĞ
District 2440



Rtn PP Gergana Georgieva
District 2482



Rtn. PP Galya Atanasova
District 2482

CONTACT US!

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

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

Rotary
Club Bourgas



Maths Festival

INTERNATIONAL ROTARY MATHS FESTIVAL

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



LOCAL ROUND



October 25, 2026



Different places around the world

INTERNATIONAL ROUND



April 17, 2027



Bourgas, Bulgaria

RPI Zone 21 Social MEDIA Networks



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