

Philippine Rotary

THE MAGAZINE OF CHOICE

OCTOBER 2024

The shot heard
round the world
page 22

Chasing Polio
page 26

Youth worker is
The One Philippines 2024:
page 38

GUIDING LIGHT

Lighthouse at Falkland



EVERY
ROTARIAN
EVERY
YEAR

HELP KEEP COMMUNITIES HEALTHY

Your donation to The Rotary Foundation supports members around the world as they work to prevent disease and strengthen communities by helping people access basic health care. Your gift means people have more resources to fight diseases such as polio, malaria, HIV/AIDS, and diabetes, and that keeps communities healthy.

GIVE TODAY: rotary.org/donate





Urchick dons a baseball jersey during a July fundraiser for PolioPlus at the home of the Pittsburgh Pirates.



It takes a team

With World Polio Day on 24 October, I'm proudly rooting for Rotary as we team up around the world to End Polio Now.

I had the honor of attending a Strike Out Polio event in July at PNC Park, home of the Pittsburgh Pirates MLB team. The Rotary Club of Delmont-Salem hosted the event, which raised \$1.3 million for PolioPlus.

Later in the summer, I joined members of our Rotary family in supporting the Más Millas Menos Polio (More Miles Less Polio) bike ride. Felipe Meza Chávez and his team rode all the way from Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, to One Rotary Center in Evanston, Illinois, to raise money and awareness. The ride took 12 days, and Felipe and his team collected more than \$100,000 to support the fight against polio. It was a joy to greet them as they arrived in Evanston.

And I was thrilled to see Team End Polio raise global awareness around the 2024 Paris Olympics. This world-class roster of athletes, global leaders, and polio eradication supporters came together to advocate for a world where no child has to live in fear of being paralyzed by polio. Some of the athletes on Team End Polio are polio survivors themselves, adding weight to their advocacy.

These are just a few examples of the many ways Rotary has teamed up recently to End Polio Now. It is vital that we continue to seek out and recruit teammates in polio eradication, especially after the

challenges our eradication efforts have faced this year.

The Rotary world was heartbroken to learn about the tragic passing in August of Aidan O'Leary, director for polio eradication at the World Health Organization.

I knew Aidan and worked with him directly. He was a tireless advocate in the fight against polio and a kind, genuine man. We will remember him both for his advocacy and his warmth.

But where there is hardship, there is also hope. I feel hopeful whenever I consider the countless ways Rotary supports the fight every day to eradicate polio.

As people of action, we don't have the luxury of giving in to despair, even in the face of tragedy. The best way to honor Aidan's memory is by teaming up and reaching our goal to End Polio Now.

We made a promise to the children of the world and their families. It is incumbent upon us, together with our global partners, to end this threat once and for all.

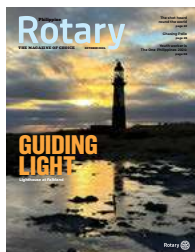
There are so many ways we can team up to eradicate polio. You can donate to the End Polio Now campaign, join or initiate a PolioPlus Society in your club or district, or take inspiration from the fundraisers I mentioned above.

I encourage Rotary members around the world to continue to seek out new teammates, so that together, we end polio.

STEPHANIE A. URCHICK
President, Rotary International

Join the team and help make polio history at endpolio.org.

CONTENTS



▲ ON THE COVER:

*Light fades at land's end
Quick! Light a candle to warm
Antarctic's cold night.*

*Lighthouse at sea's edge
Quick! Carry a torch to warn
Antarctic's dark night.*

Photo by Ann Marie Sarayno Panizal.
Haiku by Manolet Dayrit. Ms. Panizal is a nurse now working in Falkland Islands. She is a daughter of a community health worker in Davao del Norte who assisted Dr. Manuel Dayrit in the late seventies.



October 2024

- 1** President's message
- 3** Chairman's message
- 5** Editor's note
- 50** Trustee Chair's message

FEATURES

- 26** **Chasing polio**
A photographer documents progress and promise on the road to stop polio for good.
- 34** **Champions for Peace**
'Empowering Southeast Asia's Young Leaders for Social Cohesion and Harmony' is kicking off in the Philippines.

- 36** **Education can end poverty**
- 38** **Youth worker is The One Philippines 2024**

- 43** **Measures of giving: a healing memoir**

OUR WORLD

- 14** **After the floods**
Climate-smart communities bloom in Pakistan's agricultural heartland.

- 17** **Polio and beyond**
A Rotarian returns year after year to his homeland to help with vaccines and more.
- 18** **People of action around the globe**
- 20** **Bring Rotary to work**
How to adopt a service mindset in the office through "job purposing".
- 22** **The shot heard round the world**
A son recalls his father's great medical achievement — and the moment he experienced that breakthrough firsthand.
- 44** **A future transformed**
Her life was changed by an Ambassadorial Scholarship, a future Rotary director resolved to change the lives of others.

OUR CLUBS

- 6** **All geared up for a magical year**
D3870 focus
'I said No for years'
- 12** **Blast from the past**
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet
- 46** **Female-owned businesses boom in Brazil**
- 48** **A matter of consequence**
Polio eradication focuses on "consequential geographies".
- 52** **A global peace gathering**
2025 Convention

Near-zero polio within reach

October 24 is World Polio Day. Let me share some information into this magnanimous project of Rotary to eradicate polio in the entire world.

Polio is poliomyelitis, a highly infectious disease that most commonly affects children under the age of 5. Most know it as poliovirus. The virus is spread person to person, typically through contaminated water. It can attack the nervous system and in some instances lead to paralysis. Although there is no cure, there is a safe and effective vaccine- one which Rotary and our partners use to immunize over 2.5 billion children worldwide.

In 1979 Rotary International started a multiyear project to immunize 6 million children in the Philippines and this started in Angeles City. In 1988 the World Health Assembly passed a resolution to eradicate Polio - to achieve its permanent reduction to zero with no risk of reintroduction and the same year the Global Polio eradication initiative was launched.

Rotary is an international community that brings together leaders who step up to take on the world's toughest challenges, locally and globally. The eradication of polio is one of our longest standing and most significant efforts. Along with our partners we have helped immunize more than 2.5 billion children against polio in 122 countries. We have reduced polio incidence by 99.9 per cent worldwide and we won't stop until we end the disease for good.

In connection with World Polio Day, our magazine shares the inspiring life story of Past District Governor Mary Anne Solomon, Immediate Past End Polio Coordinator and now an International Polio Plus Committee Member of Rotary International (*please see page 43*).

Indeed, as she reminds us all:

“One of the most extraordinary feats of our magical journey is the near eradication of Polio. What was once an unthinkable dream is now within our grasp, thanks to the relentless dedication and hard work of Rotarians worldwide. This achievement symbolizes the power of our collective efforts and the magic we can create together.”

EMILIANO D. JOVEN
Chairman, PRMFI



“The eradication of polio is one of our longest standing and most significant efforts. We have reduced polio incidence by 99.9 percent worldwide and we won't stop until we end the disease for good.”

Philippine Rotary

THE MAGAZINE OF CHOICE

FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES, RY 2024-2025

Emiliano Joven	CHAIRMAN
Suzanne Villa-Sta. Maria	VICE CHAIRMAN
Pastor Marcelo Reyes Jr.	SECRETARY
Efren Martinez	DEPUTY SECRETARY
Salvador Quimpo	TREASURER
Josefina Ang	DEPUTY TREASURER
Manuel Along	AUDITOR
Medardo Iguialada	PRO
Leonardo Raphael Tayco Jr.	TRUSTEE
Benjamin Garcia	TRUSTEE
Michael Lirio	EX-OFFICIO TRUSTEE
Herminio Coloma, Jr.	EX-OFFICIO MEMBER
Efren Lim	EX-OFFICIO MEMBER
Edgardo Limon	BOARD ADVISERS
Nestor Borromeo	
Lyne Abanilla	
Edna Sutter	
Francisco Rivera	LEGAL COUNSEL

EDITORIAL BOARD

Sonny Coloma	EDITOR IN CHIEF
Sue Villa-Sta. Maria	MANAGING EDITOR
Bing Icamina	EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Johnny Sy	TECHNOLOGY ADVISERS
Alejandro Palacio	
Elias Guerrero Jr.	ART DIRECTOR

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Efren Lim	CHAIRMAN
Jose Pepito Bengzon III	SUBSCRIPTION ADVISER
Efren de Guzman	CIRCULATION ADVISER
Fabio Enriquez	FINANCE ADVISER
Melrose Lunn	OVERALL SUBSCRIPTION COORDINATOR
Arnold Nicolas	OVERALL COLLECTION COORDINATOR
Ella Yu	OVERALL CIRCULATION COORDINATOR
Susan Czudai	ADVERTISING COORDINATOR
Pleshette Wee	DIGITALIZATION COORDINATOR
Nelson Liuz	OFFICE MANAGER
Analiza Padua	STAFF
Elizabeth Seva	
Amalia Jusay	
Marlo Visitacion	

DISTRICT GOVERNORS' REPRESENTATIVES

Virgilio Valenzuela, D3770; **Florian Enriquez**, D3780
Elaine Grace Dayrit, D3790; **Alfredo Abellar Jr.**, D3800
Michael Jaey Albaña, D3810; **May Andrea Katigbak**, D3820
Cha-Cha Camacho, D3830; **Vincent Carbon**, D3850
Maricel Amores, D3860; **Enrique Andres**, D3860
Ma. Concepcion Borja-Lagonera, D3870

CONTENT DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Corina Tengco Bautista, D3770; **Dan Espinosa**, D3780;
John Paul Cadaing, D3790; **Paolo Rivera**, D3800;
Liza Elorde, D3810; **Liezl Castro Ampatuan**, D3820;
Charlotte Cruz, D3830; **James Makasiar**, D3850;
Mary Anne Solomon, D3860; **Fe Juarez**, D3870

GENERAL OFFICERS OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL, 2024-25

PRESIDENT
Stephanie A. Urchick
McMurray, Pennsylvania, USA

PRESIDENT-ELECT
Mário César Martins de Camargo
Santo André, Brazil

VICE PRESIDENT
Hans-Hermann Kasten
Aachen-Frankenburg, Germany

TREASURER
Rhonda "Beth" Stubbs
Maryville, Tennessee, USA

DIRECTORS
Ghim Bok Chew
Bugis Junction, Singapore

Eve Conway-Ghazi
Redbridge, England

Patrick Eakes
Crescent (Greensboro),
North Carolina, USA

Christine Etienne
Petoskey, Michigan, USA

Daniel C. Himelspach
Denver Mile High, Colorado, USA

Naomi Luan-Fong Lin
Taipei Lily, Taiwan

Isao "Mick" Mizuno
Tokyo Tobihino, Japan

Salvador Rizzo Tavares
Monterrey Carlos Canseco,
Mexico

Anirudha Roy Chowdhury
Calcutta Mega City, India

Suzan Stenberg
Östersund Åre, Sweden

Trichur Narayan "Raju" Subramanian
Deonar, India

Daniel V. Tanase
Suceava Bucovina, Romania

Alain Van de Poel
Wezembeek-Kraainem, Belgium

Henrique Vasconcelos
Fortaleza-Alagadiço, Brazil

Yeong Ho Yun
Masan South, Korea

GENERAL SECRETARY
John Hewko
Kyiv, Ukraine

TRUSTEES OF THE ROTARY FOUNDATION, 2024-25

CHAIR
Mark Daniel Maloney
Decatur, Alabama, USA

CHAIR-ELECT
Holger Knaack
Herzogtum Lauenburg-Mölln,
Germany

VICE CHAIR
Larry A. Lunsford
Kansas City-Plaza, Missouri,
USA

TRUSTEES
Ann-Britt Åsebol
Falun Kopparvågen, Sweden

Martha Peak Helman
Boothbay Harbor, Maine, USA

Ching-Huei "Frank" Horng
Panchiao West, Taiwan

Chun-Wook Hyun
Seoul-Hansoo, Korea

Jennifer E. Jones
Windsor-Roseland, Ontario,
Canada

R. Gordon R. McInally
South Queensferry, Scotland

Akira Miki
Himeji, Japan

Ijeoma Pearl Okoro
Port Harcourt, Nigeria

Bharat S. Pandya
Borivli, India

Greg E. Podd
Evergreen, Colorado, USA

Carlos Sandoval
San Nicolás de los Garza,
Mexico

Dennis J. Shore
Hawthorn, Australia

GENERAL SECRETARY
John Hewko
Kyiv, Ukraine

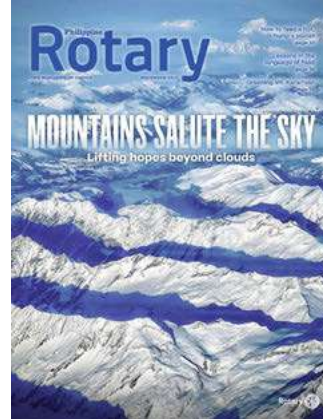
Philippine Rotary Magazine is an official regional magazine of Rotary International, published monthly by the Philippine Rotary Magazine Foundation, Inc. Member, Rotary World Magazine Press. Office: G/F D3780 Rotary Center Foundation, Inc. Bldg., Roces cor Mo. Ignacia Avenues, Brgy. Paligsahan, Quezon City, 1103. Tel. no.: (02) 8332-5729; Viber no.: 0916-478-6570; E-mail: office@philrotary.com; Website: rotaryphilippines.com; Facebook: PhilippineRotaryMagazine



Manuel 'Manolet' Dayrit is a public health expert who served as Secretary of Health under then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo from 2001 to 2005. He is a former Director at the World Health Organization in Geneva, and former Dean of the Ateneo School of Medicine and Public Health.

Richie, Au, and Cookie have taken on photography as a hobby, sharing their prized shots with Manolet who honored their work by writing haikus. A haiku is a Japanese form of poetry, that also became popularly expressed in English, consisting of 17 syllables in three lines of five, seven and five.

In December 2023, the cover of our Philippine Rotary Magazine was entitled, Mountains Salute the Sky and subtitled, "lifting hopes beyond the clouds." The photo was taken by Richie Fonacier. Manolet wrote this haiku:



Mountaintops glisten like many silver petals floating in the air

Featured below are other haikus written by Richie, Au and Cookie.

Our cover photo for this issue was contributed by Ann Marie Sarayno Panizal, daughter of a community health worker in Davao del Norte with whom Manolet Dayrit worked in the late seventies.

Sonny Coloma
SONNY COLOMA
Editor-in-chief

Healers' picturesque poetry

Richie, Au, Cookie and Manolet were classmates in the University of the Philippines (UP) College of Medicine Class of 1976. Their senior pre-med days coincided with the First Quarter Storm (FQS) of 1970 that witnessed the barricades at UP Diliman and Katipunan. They were in first year medical school when martial law was imposed in 1972.

Where are they now?

Jose Rizal 'Richie' Fonacier, an ophthalmologist, and Eleanor 'Cookie' Martinez, an obstetrician-gynecologist, are both in the USA. Aurora 'Au' Parong is now with Amnesty International, based in the Philippines.



▲ 'Floating' Torri gates at the Itsukushima Shinto Shrine on the island of Itsukushima, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

*Umbrellas open
 Heaven's gate in foggy rain
 Colors of rainbow*

Photo by Richie Fonacier



▲ Look what lies ahead the long straight desolate road don't miss the flowers

Photo by Cookie Martinez



▲ Sun dancing on clouds who will call the rainmakers on this dazzling day

Photo by Aurora Parong

OUR CLUBS



D3870 FOCUS

All geared up for a magical year

by Hubert Quiblat

“Since the area is wide and entails hours of travel, I was determined that even before the official start of my term of office, I would tour the 48 clubs in my district and visit my club presidents to hear their concerns firsthand.”

– D3870 Governor
Hubert Quiblat

As District Governor for District 3870, my area of responsibility covers the Rotary Clubs in nine provinces in Northern and Central Mindanao: Bukidnon, Misamis Oriental, Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur, North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao, Camiguin; and Cagayan de Oro City.

Since the area is wide and entails hours of travel, I was determined that even before the official start of my term of office, I would tour the 48 clubs in my district and visit my club presidents to hear their concerns firsthand. I took the opportunity to experience fellowship with Rotarians and learn firsthand the challenges they faced as they endeavored to serve their communities.

My primary goal is to strengthen the clubs.

To be able to lead them well, I need real-time information on how each club is doing; in this respect, I rely on the MyRotary database, expecting that all clubs do what is needed to ensure that they have up to date information.

Prepping club leaders

To equip the new sets of club officers, the District

has conducted several seminars including: The Rotary Foundation (TRF) Global Grant and Grant Management Seminar; the District Training Team Seminar, the Presidents-Elect Learning Seminar, the District Learning Assembly, the Membership Seminar, and the Public Image Seminar.

I am determined that the our clubs would undergo significant transformations to align with the evolving guidelines and initiatives of Rotary International. Our district has already made significant strides in aligning with Rotary International’s 5-Year Strategic Plan, and I am grateful for the dedication and hard work of our club and district leaders.

MyRotary and digital reports

I take pride that 72 percent of all Rotarians in my district have registered accounts at MyRotary and more are creating their accounts. We are progressing rapidly.

District 3870 is now in the transition period of moving to the digital environment. I no longer require clubs to submit accomplishments in hard copy. Instead, I require clubs to upload their plans



and programs in Rotary Club Central, and to report their milestones through the Service Project Center in MyRotary. From there, I can easily monitor the performance of all clubs.

I also require all Rotarians to register in MyRotary and take at least one lesson from the Rotary Learning Center. Many Rotarians are not aware of the many benefits of accessing MyRotary hence I encourage club presidents to assign technically equipped Rotarians to assist low-tech Rotarians in accessing MyRotary. In this way, all

Clockwise from opposite top: Membership and Public Image Seminar; RC Carmen Valley; RC CDO Centerpoint; RC Bukidnon with Asst. Governor Jo Cuevas; Signage (public image) project of RC Kalayaan Cagayan de Oro; RC Gingoog Bay; RC Central Jasaan.

OUR CLUBS

Rotarians in RID3870 will be introduced to the benefits of navigating MyRotary and learn many things about our humanitarian organization.

Membership expansion and engagement

We will welcome at least 100 new Rotarians this year to sustain the substantial growth in our membership. From the current number of 48, we plan to establish four new clubs and satellite clubs, thus expanding our reach and capacity for service.

Our strategies are: 1) Achieve our target increase in membership by creating new Rotary and Rotaract clubs. Aside from the regular clubs, there are other forms of clubs such as satellite, cause-oriented, and passport clubs and we will ensure that these are imbued in the minds of Club Membership Chairmen; 2) Foster the Club Experience through effective club engagement strategies, onboarding and mentoring new members.

Strengthening The Rotary Foundation

We will continue campaigning for donations to The Rotary Foundation. Our district's commitment is unwavering. We will raise US\$110,000 through annual giving, welcome 100 new Paul Harris Fellows and 10 new Paul Harris Society members.

We have identified five new Major Donors. Additionally, we will encourage members to utilize the District Grant Fund and Global Grants to support impactful projects.

Ending polio: A global priority

The fight against polio remains a top priority for our district. We will recruit 50 new End Polio Now Society members, ensuring that all clubs are actively involved in fundraising and awareness campaigns. Our efforts will culminate in a contribution of US\$10,000 to the End Polio Now campaign.

Community engagement and impact

We are prioritizing community engagement and impact through various initiatives.

Through the One Project per Area of Focus approach, we will ensure that we will address diverse community needs. Projects are designed to be sustainable for greater appreciation of the beneficiaries. We urge all clubs to seek district or global grants for maximum community impact.

Special concerns are also requested to be included in clubs' plans and programs for their service projects, such as:

Adopt-A-River: all clubs collaborate with agencies and NGOs to make our rivers clean and alive. A signed memorandum of agreement with like-minded government or private organizations will serve as official documentation of the adoption.



This page, from top:
RC Gingoog; RC Golden Friendship; RC Iligan South; RC Iligan; RC Kalayaan Cagayan de Oro.

Opposite page, from top:
RC Metro Cagayan de Oro; RC Kalayaan; RC Metro Maramag; RC Metro Wao; RC South Cagayan de Oro;





School-based Immunization of the Department of Health and the Department of Education. The target is to immunize pupils of an adopted elementary school to achieve herd immunity which is 95 percent. So far, only 70%-75% of school children are vaccinated against diseases affecting them.

Public Image

Making deliberate efforts to make known the good that Rotary does is a new way of doing public image. To maintain a unified public presence, clubs are being made aware of the Branch Center as a valuable resource on MyRotary in the area of public image.

A year of service and leadership

Beyond our district-wide initiatives, I am proud to highlight some of my personal plans and accomplishments:

Kick-Off Project: Our blood-letting campaign in July 2024 was a resounding success, demonstrating our commitment to community health. We were able to gather more than 1,600 bags of blood.

MyRotary Enrollment: We plan to achieve 100 percent enrollment from a low 50% and sign-in of all Rotarians on MyRotary. As of now, we are on our 72% level, and increasing. Corollary to this, we encourage 100% participation in the Rotary Learning Center.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: We will organize at least one activity per zone to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion.

International Engagement: We are encouraging Rotarians to participate in the 2025 Calgary RI Convention and the 2024 Taipei Rotary Institute, fostering global connections.

District Leadership: We will urge 100% participation of all clubs in district activities and seminars.

Youth Engagement: We are supporting the establishment of one new Rotaract club per zone and strengthened partnerships with Rotary Clubs. RYLA participation is also encouraged by sponsoring at least 3 students per club.

Rotary Community Corps: We aim to establish one new Rotary Community Corps per zone and to strengthen existing ones.

I am confident that our district is well-positioned for continued growth and impact. I encourage our members to remain dedicated to our mission and to continue serving their communities with passion and compassion. We are all geared up for a magical year — through Service Above Self in action.

The author is the incumbent District Governor of D3870.





D3870 FOCUS

‘I said No for years’

by Hubert Quiblat, as interviewed by Nova Thirty Agravante

This is a funny story. When I first inquired about Rotary, I was rejected downright. I was told, “You are not qualified to become a Rotarian because you’re not the head of your office.” That was in the early 1980s.

From the late 1980s to the late 1990s, I was invited several times to join a Rotary Club but I downright refused.

In 1997, among the managers of commercial banks in Malaybalay, Bukidnon, I remained the only non-Rotarian. At one of our bankers’ association meetings, I was invited to join Rotary, the Rotary Club of Malaybalay. I had been refusing invitations to join Rotary for more than ten years. Finally, I relented.

The club immediately assigned me to various roles in our weekly programs to familiarize me with the culture of Rotary. Since most club members are Past

Presidents, they elected me as Vice President only after six months of membership. By dint of fate, I was transferred to Cagayan de Oro after a year. Physical attendance was a deal-breaker, so I had to leave the club.

Past District Governor (PDG) Dan Sarraga then invited me to join the Rotary Club of Cagayan de Oro, the oldest club in D3870. I was given the booklet “ABCs of Rotary” and was mentored by several Rotarians about the protocol of Rotary and the club ethos. I was particularly interested in the Four-Way Test which eventually served as my guiding principle in my work and personal life. I was also attracted to the motto Service Above Self because doing works of mercy gives me joy.

I have been a Club Director several times, a Club Secretary, a Club Treasurer and finally, the Club President. In the district, I was appointed as Assistant Governor and held several other district positions.

DG Hubert Quiblat (above) has diligently attended all the training opportunities provided by RI to prepare him for his governorship.

This page, from left: Daughter Rossa Katrina, former Rotary Exchange student to the USA, is a Past President, a Past Assistant Governor, and a Paul Harris Fellow; DG with supportive spouse Paz Balba.

I have developed an attachment to Rotary. Resources are available to perform the different functions in Rotary. More importantly, the guiding principles of Rotary serve as relevant guide posts in all spheres of activity.

I have attended all of our District Conferences since 2008 and more than ten RI Conventions and Rotary Institutes.

My daughter Rossa Katrina was a Rotary Exchange student in 2005 in Illinois, USA. She is now a Rotarian actively serving the Rotary Club of Malaybalay. She is a Past President, a Past Assistant Governor, and a Paul Harris Fellow.

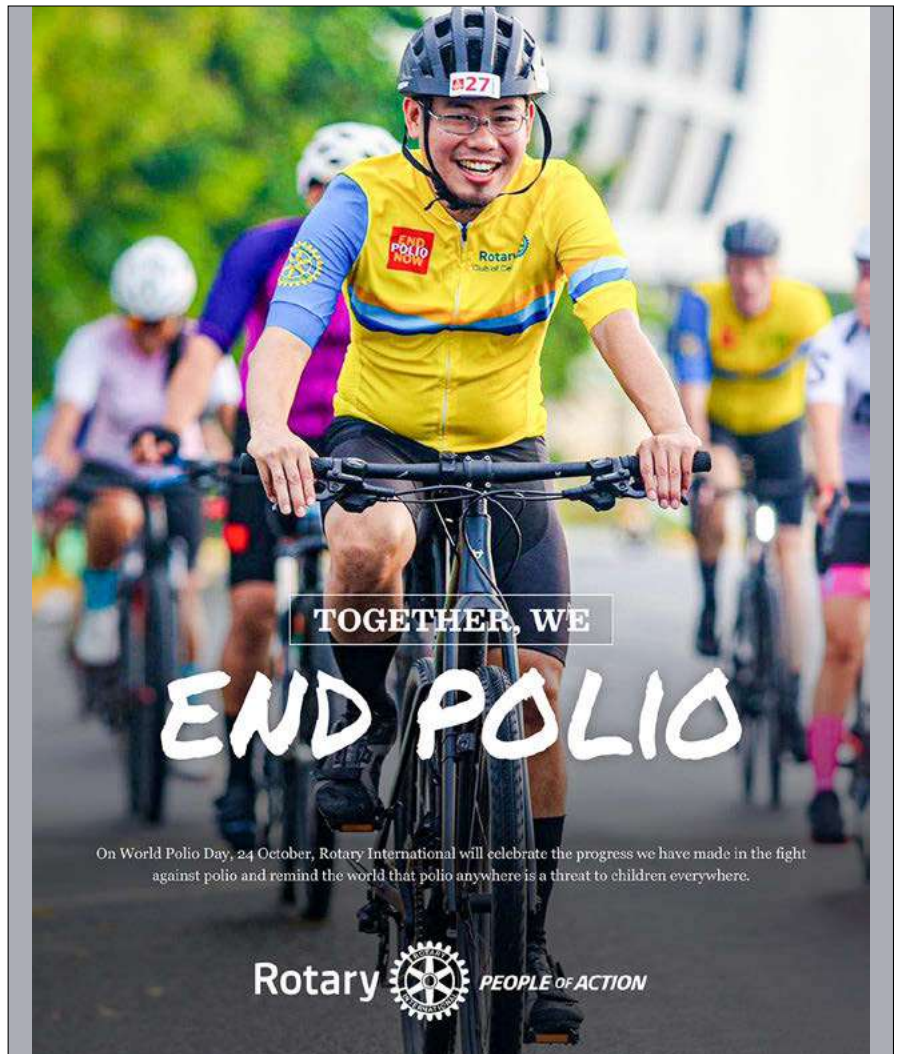
I am now retired from business management while I continue to happily serve Rotary. I am also doing voluntary work for the church and the local government as a civil society representative of the Philippine Institute of Environmental Planners in the City Development Council of Malaybalay City.

I was eventually elected to the highest position in District 3870: as Governor for 2024-2025.

In preparation for this role, I diligently attended the mandated trainings, including the pre-Governor Nominee Training Seminar and pre-Governor Elect Training Seminar conducted by the Philippine College of Rotary Governors. I traveled to Abu Dhabi, UAE, to participate in the 2022 Rotary Institute where the Governors-Nominee Training Seminar was held. I attended the Rotary Institute 2023 in Kaohsiung, Taiwan where the Governors-Elect Training Seminar was held.

Finally, I attended the 2024 International Assembly in Orlando, Florida in January 2024 where, together with all the District Governors from around the world, we were all prepared for our year of service. These trainings were interactive and provided valuable learning experiences. Fellowship activities followed each training, fostering a sense of camaraderie among the fellow Governors worldwide.

From a young bank officer who was once deemed “disqualified” to join Rotary, I now serve my district as the leader of Rotary International District 3870.



On World Polio Day, 24 October, Rotary International will celebrate the progress we have made in the fight against polio and remind the world that polio anywhere is a threat to children everywhere.

OUR CLUBS

D3810 District Conference 1993:

Blast from the past

Real Happiness is Helping Others, the theme enunciated by RI President Cliff Dochterman in 1992-1993, is reflected eloquently in these photos from the 1993 District Conference that was presided over by then District Governor Jose 'Joey' Benedicto of D3810, with his spouse Ressy. Prominently shown in this gallery is then President Fidel V. Ramos who assumed office on June 30, 1992, and affiliated himself with the Rotary Club of Manila for decades.



➔ Clockwise from top right: President Ramos celebrated his birthday at the Discon. Shown here with PDG Tourism Secretary Vince Carlos and Governor Joey Benedicto. (L-R) President of Makati Central Dick Funk, FVR, Vince Carlos, Joey Benedicto, Jun Tambunting; Governor Joey Benedicto and Ann Ressy with their brood; Ann Ressy Benedicto addressing the ladies group at the Discon. It was customary then for the Discon to hold a separate session with the spouses of club presidents; The First Lady of the District, Ressy Benedicto, dances with President Ramos; Ambassador Alfonso Yunchengco is recognized for his great contribution and support to the "Save Planet Earth" project of Rotary.



“We Rotarians recognize that each person is special. He is gifted to rise to the highest levels of excellence. And he has the heart that craves for the fellowship of his peers and bleeds for the misfortunes of his countrymen.”

“I have learned from my visits around Asia that development begins with inspiration. And this inspiration draws from faith and commitment.”

— excerpts from the keynote address of President Ramos at the Discon

“We know that leaders in Rotary change but Rotary’s leadership does not. We in Rotary know that this is the way we grow and this is the way Rotary enhances its service to humanity. We continue to dream. We continue to build.”

— from the Discon address of Governor Joey Benedicto





← Top row: Rotary Ann Crispy Santamaria Laurel, daughter of Rotarian Joe Santamaria and national pianist Ingrid Sala Santamaria. Escorted by hubby PP Arsenic Laurel; The Discon has stunning carnival queens and muses; A young Cory Quirino on the ramp.



← Second row: President Fidel V. Ramos being greeted by Ann Ressay Benedicto. Partly hidden is Governor Leo de Guzman next to FVR; Popular TV news anchor Cathy Veloso, daughter of PDG Tony Veloso. Escorted by PP Ramon Mayuga.



← Third row: Jaime Zobel de Ayala addresses the business conference of the Discon. Excerpts from his address; RIPRI Director Pandu Setty He said, "The best language is the language of the heart."; Direct from Tokyo, Japan, Yotaro Kobayashi, Chairman of Fujixerox, also addresses the Discon business session.



"Let us work together to clean this polluted land of ours so that our children and their children may breathe the same pure, sweet air, drink and frolic in the same clear, flowing waters, and walk in the same unsullied land that our forefathers enjoyed."

— Ambassador Alfonso Yuchengco

← Bottom row, left-most: The Rotary International theme of Rotary year 1992-1993 "Real happiness is helping others" or "La verdadera felicidad es ayudar al prójimo."

CLIMATE ADAPTATION

After the floods

Climate-smart communities bloom in Pakistan's agricultural heartland

The farmers of Pakistan's Indus River Valley contribute little to climate change, yet they are frighteningly vulnerable to it. In the summer of 2022, record-breaking monsoon rains supercharged by warming temperatures deluged the fertile plains where many of them cultivated cotton, rice, and wheat for large landowners. The floods submerged a third of the country, killing more than 1,700 people and displacing about 8 million.

"We were very badly affected. We lost so many animals — buffalo, cows, and sheep. We also lost crops," says Sughana Bheel, who was displaced along with her husband, three children, and other surviving residents of the submerged village of Nauabad in the country's south.

For months, the farmers of Sindh province, many of whom fled to nearby towns and cities, took refuge in tents, schools, or out in the open. Mindful of the role climate change played in the disaster, Pakistan's Rotary clubs decided to put climate adaptation at the center of their rebuilding efforts. They worked closely with rural communities to incorporate renewable energy and indigenous building techniques and materials.

Bheel and the other residents of Nauabad learned about the plans and approached a Rotary club in the area. "They came and surveyed the village, and the landlord gave the land to establish a new village," Bheel says through an interpreter.

"Now, in the current rainy season, our cattle and livestock are safe."

Known as the Smart Villages project, this reconstruction effort started with finding locations less susceptible to flooding. In addition to climate-resilient building plans and steps to ease flooding, the project follows low-emission construction practices and includes a broad array of new amenities such as internet connectivity. The program, supported by about 45 Rotary clubs throughout Pakistan and some in other countries, was the idea of architect and Past Rotary Director Muhammad Faiz Kidwai.

"I had always believed that when tragedies happen, we get very emotionally involved in the first stage — the relief stage. But life actually begins when that stage is over," Kidwai says. "Keeping in view the fact that the flooding was due to climate change, I started thinking, 'Let's do something which is sustainable, and where we can really contribute in terms of climate change as well.' And so, I started developing a model."

Since then, 12 Smart Villages have been built, and plans are in place to construct 13 more by the end of 2025. What makes these villages "smart"? They have encircling mud walls, wooded areas, and channel drainage to divert floodwaters. Clean water is supplied by solar-powered wells, rainwater harvesting, and check dams. Every two homes share an eco-toilet. Solar panels provide electricity to

To learn more and get involved, visit this site: rotarypakistan.smartvillages.org.



Mindful of the role climate change played in the 2022 floods, Pakistan's Rotary clubs put climate adaptation at the center of rebuilding efforts, working with rural communities to incorporate renewable energy and indigenous building techniques.

common areas and water treatment facilities and allow internet connectivity. Rotary members have negotiated agreements with internet providers and a medical university to set up online health services. And the villages were constructed using climate-friendly materials and methods.

"I joined Rotary in 1984, and in my whole Rotary career, I have never seen the likes of this program," says Rais Ahmed Khan, a past governor of District 3271 and a member of the Rotary Club of Greater Mirpurkhas, who is a district chair for the Smart Villages project. "Rotary provided the opportunity, and the Rotarians did the whole thing with the villagers in the affected areas."

The Smart Villages also give female residents new ways to earn money — an important initiative in a country where women in rural areas participate in the workforce at higher rates than women in urban

areas. Each village has a workshop where women can embroider cloth and make other items to sell. Bheel's village got 25 sewing machines and six months' worth of fabric. "With all the other things Rotary did, they did some things to improve the economy also," Bheel says.

The project cost around \$325,000 and was funded through a mix of direct donations and grants, including disaster response grants from The Rotary Foundation's Pakistan Flood Response Fund. The Rotary members formed partnerships with several organizations and businesses, including the Saylani Welfare International Trust and the Heritage Foundation of Pakistan. Constructing the homes in the first village took about eight months, but with practice, the builders were soon able to complete this phase in three to four months. Still, there were many problems to solve along the way.

"One of the biggest challenges was securing permission and allocating ownership from the property owners," says Shakeel Kaim Khani, governor-elect of District 3271 and a member of the Rotary Club of Samaro. Kaim Khani was among several Rotary members who donated land to build on.

"The lack of proper access roads and damaged infrastructure made it difficult to transport materials and personnel to the locations, hindering our progress," Kaim Khani adds. "Also, the absence of pure water sources presented significant challenges. We implemented water treatment solutions to address water scarcity and quality issues."

The program has provided homes to around 1,200 people so far, but its overall impact is much broader. Smart Villages provide a paradigm for addressing two major concerns related to climate change: making building practices more

OUR WORLD

eco-friendly and preventing mass migration from rural areas.

There's a growing movement of builders and city planners around the world calling for more sustainable building practices. Building construction and operations are responsible for more than a third of global energy-related carbon dioxide emissions each year, and the manufacture of cement and concrete alone generates up to 9 percent of all annual CO₂ emissions. In contrast, rural building practices in the developing world are often climate friendly.

"True sustainable knowledge exists in rural areas," says Ming Hu, an associate professor at the University of Notre Dame's School of Architecture and author of *Green Building Costs: The Affordability of Sustainable Design*. "Once we start trying to be 'high tech,' we tend to put away practices that are actually very good in terms of sustainability."

Kidwai sought out indigenous materials and practices when designing the Smart Village buildings. They're constructed from locally available materials like mud, lime, and bamboo. In areas without bamboo, Rotarians planted it for later use.

The program also has a different kind of sustainability in mind: sustaining rural lifestyles. By improving rural people's standards of living, Kidwai argues, Smart Villages will allow them to remain on their land instead of moving to cities.

"The Smart Villages program will not just bring environmental sustainability in villages, but will also help in deurbanization," Kidwai says. "If we can provide a better quality of life in villages, there will be no reason for immigrants to leave their loved ones and come to urban centers in search of livelihood."

Such migration can put a strain on cities, increase greenhouse

The program has provided homes to around 1,200 people so far, but its overall impact is broader. Smart Villages provide a paradigm for addressing two major concerns related to climate change: making building practices more eco-friendly and preventing mass migration.



gas emissions, and result in worse hardships for those who leave their homes. To try to prevent this, experts around the world are putting their own spins on the idea of "smart villages." The Smart Villages Research Group, based in the United Kingdom, focuses on rural access to electricity.

"Studies have been carried out to discern whether young people would stay in their villages if better facilities became available," says Brian Heap, one of the UK initia-

tive's originators. "In nearly every case it turns out that they would, because that is their family base."

In the Rotary clubs' Smart Villages, even the building process was a family affair. Bheel was particularly happy that she and her relatives were able to construct their new homes themselves.

"No one borrowed any labor. We and our family members established and built these houses," she says. "Now our children and our families are safe." — ETELKA LEHOCZKY

BY THE NUMBERS

8 million

Number of people displaced by the 2022 floods in Pakistan

1/3

Portion of Pakistan submerged during the floods

1,200

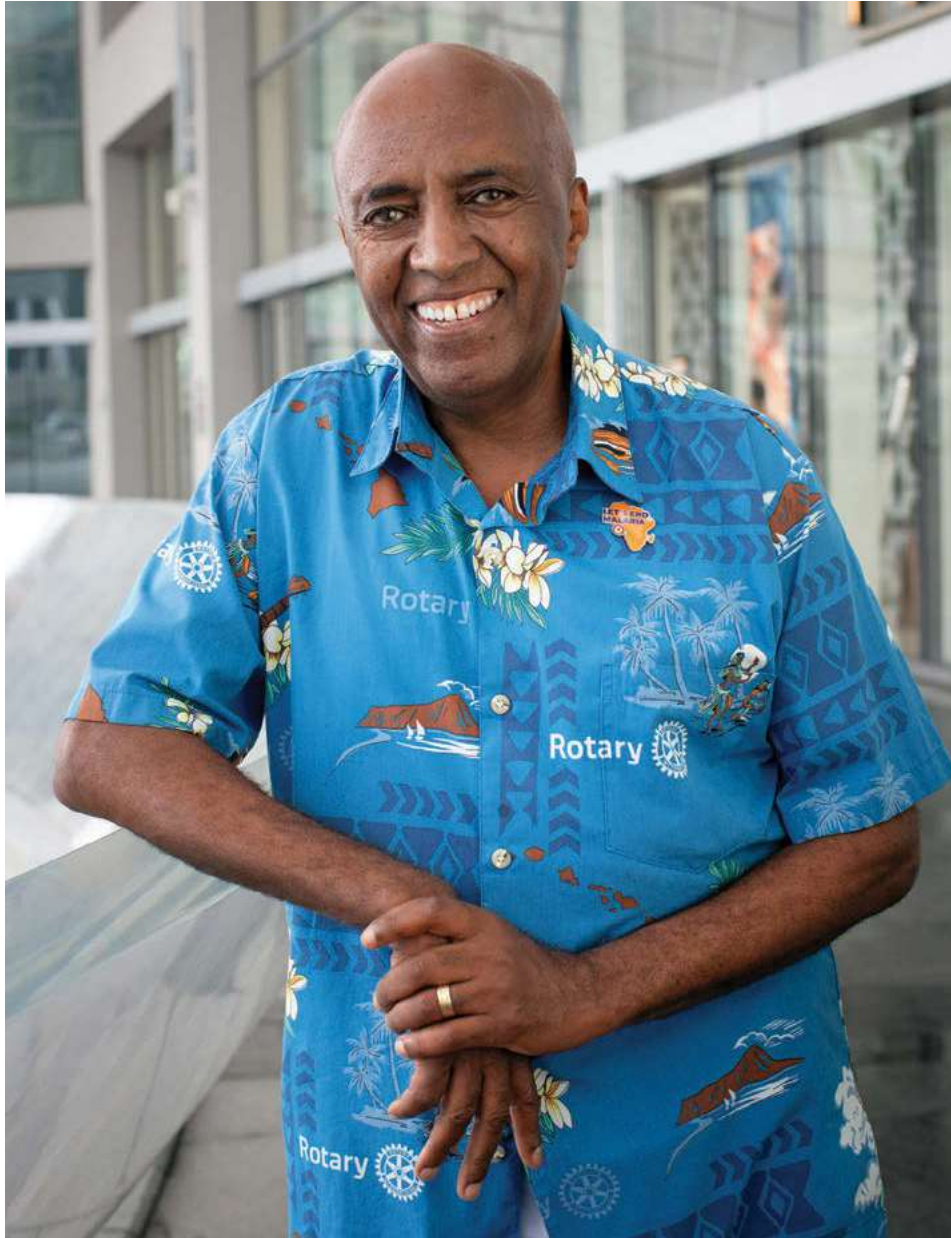
Number of people housed in Smart Villages to date

Short takes

This month, district governors can nominate Rotarians and Rotaractors for the Service Above Self Award. Learn more at rotary.org/awards.

In 2023-24, The Rotary Foundation approved 1,285 global grants, 485 district grants, 105 disaster response grants (preliminary figures), and one Programs of Scale grant.





PROFILE

Polio and beyond

A Rotarian returns year after year to his homeland to help with vaccines and more

Ezra Teshome
Rotary Club
of University
District of
Seattle

In 1997, Ezra Teshome traveled from his home in Seattle to a Rotary peace conference in Ethiopia, where he was born and raised. Rotarians there were organizing National Immunization Days. In one village, Teshome met a man and his 8-year-old daughter, who had polio. The man thought the visitors were there to cure her. He asked Teshome for help.

“For the whole day, it really bothered me that the child was crippled for the rest of her life, for the loss of two drops of vaccine,” Teshome says. “When I came back to the United States, I said, ‘I will come back every year to participate in National Immunization Days with my Rotarian friends.’”

The next year, about 24 people came with him. Almost every year since, he’s taken anywhere from 60 to 80 people at one time to administer vaccinations.

Ethiopia’s mountainous terrain and hot weather make transporting vaccines difficult. “When you walk three, four hours without any refrigeration system, the vaccine could start to spoil,” Teshome says. “We have built clinics and asked people to bring their kids there.” These clinics are also equipped to meet other public health needs in the communities.

The impact of Teshome’s trips has spread in other ways too. Rotarians attending his trips have helped install nearly 100 water projects throughout the country, provide 120 shelter homes, and donate ambulances.

Time magazine named Teshome a global health hero at the 2005 *Time* Global Health Summit. That year, Ethiopia’s national immunization campaign reached 16 million children. Looking ahead, Teshome wants to continue providing clean water access in Ethiopia, contribute to peace in the region — and see a worldwide end to polio. — JP SWENSON

Cedric Bichano, a former Rotaractor in Uganda who founded the World Refugee Film Academy, was named one of the Kofi Annan Foundation’s 2024 Changemakers.



Rotaractors can now, like Rotarians, use Rotary Club Central to plan and track their goals. Get started at my.rotary.org.

The RI Board re-elected John Hewko to serve as Rotary’s general secretary through 2028.

People of action around the globe

By Brad Webber

Rotary members and their partners in service come together each World Polio Day on 24 October to recognize progress in the fight to end the disease. Here is a sample of the ways members are taking action to make history and eradicate polio.

Register your club's participation at endpolio.org/register-your-event.



United States

The Rotary Club of Scranton, Pennsylvania, is helping a new generation learn about polio. Students from Dunmore High School have created a documentary based on interviews conducted during a polio and health policy symposium that the club and District 7410 organized for World Polio Day 2023. The film features interviews with International PolioPlus Committee Chair Michael McGovern, other Rotarians, and symposium attendees, and is scheduled for broadcast during the club's World Polio Day events this month. "It is hard to get hands-on with history," says Alan Roche, a Dunmore teacher who enlisted about 40 students to produce the video, which includes interviews with three local polio survivors, one of whom taught at the high school. The project was an eye-opener for the young people, he says. "It's usually a page or two in the textbook, a blip in a slideshow," Roche says. "It's one thing to just learn about this and another to talk to someone who was affected by it and lives in your hometown."

1894
First U.S. polio epidemic

Colombia

Sonia Uribe and her husband, Alberto Londoño, created a stuffed animal collection called El Zoo del Amor, or the Zoo of Love, to comfort seriously ill children and raise money for polio eradication. Sales of Anna the giraffe, Lucas the tiger, and other animals — each wearing a shirt with Rotary and End Polio Now logos — have raised about \$550,000 since their introduction in 2018. In addition to giving the animals to sick children, Rotarians carry them on their travels and snap photos of them at iconic landmarks. "All these animals have traveled, being ambassadors of the Rotary brand," says Uribe, a member of the Rotary Club of Nuevo Medellín and, like Londoño, a past governor of District 4271. Londoño is a member of the Rotary Club of Medellín Nutibara. The couple also manage the Fundación Monica Uribe Por Amor, which assists children with spina bifida.

22,000

Children who've received Zoo of Love toys



France

More than a dozen Rotarians and friends in southeastern France donned inflatable dinosaur costumes and stumbled along a 100-meter course in a playful footrace that raised funds and awareness for Rotary's mission to end polio. Organized by District 1730, the T-Rex Race took place last October during the Fréjus International Air Festival, a kite fair that draws thousands of people. "The idea came to me to create an event to rejuvenate the image of Rotary in the fight against polio," says Dinh Hoan Tran, the district's immediate past governor and member of the Rotary Club of Nice. Spectators could place bets on the contestants. "We made people laugh and we informed people," says Tran. More than 40 of the district's 71 clubs participated in the event, as the district motivated clubs to "support PolioPlus to the tune of about \$45,000," he says.



24+

Years since Europe was declared polio-free



South Africa

To draw attention to the need for vigilance and vaccinations, the Rotary Club of Newlands assembled Rotary members and others for a World Polio Day photo shoot with the landmark Table Mountain in the background. On the day of the shoot, however, a heavy mist enveloped the site. "We made the best of it, chatting and taking selfies, until eventually the sun came out," says Past President Janey Ball. She used RI's polio resources toolkit to create artwork for selfie frames and set up a Facebook event called Make Polio History to record the pictures and raise awareness. To encourage Rotary members, Ball suggested using the slogan "focus on the finish." "The selfie frames have been in continuous use since the event, moving from one club to another," she says.

80 million

Polio vaccine doses administered in southern Africa in 2022



Japan

Yoichiro Miyazaki switched into high gear to raise money for the PolioPlus Society. Miyazaki, a member of the Rotary Club of Tokyo Mitaka, cycled the length of Japan last October, covering 2,500 kilometers (1,553 miles) in 24 days. "If you don't act, there's no point," he tells *Rotary Italia* magazine, using a slogan developed for his year as governor of District 2750 in 2023-24. Along the way, fellow district governors, other Rotarians, and well-wishers cheered for him as he traversed twisting roads, uphill climbs, and tunnels. RI General Secretary John Hewko, another avid cyclist, offered a video message of support. Prompted by news coverage of his ride, donors contributed \$140,000. Miyazaki continues to pedal strong: In late April, he finished the Osaka-to-Tokyo challenge just three hours shy of the 30-hour goal en route to more fundraising for polio.

7th

Japan's rank among nations in per capita bicycle ownership



GOODWILL

Bring Rotary to work

How to adopt a service mindset in the office through “job purposing”

By Bea Boccalandro

If you showed up at Leroy’s studio apartment in Washington, D.C., on a particular Friday night a few years ago, you might have found the 24-year-old drinking beer and boasting to friends that a single mother had hugged him. The mom was thanking Leroy for potentially saving her toddler from injury or death. Had Leroy gone to a vaccination event? No. He had simply gone to work. Is Leroy a firefighter? A nurse? No and no. He’s a parking attendant. If you’re scratching your head, I don’t blame you. No one would expect a parking attendant to save lives and limbs. Yet, Leroy made it so.

One day, Leroy noticed that some vehicles on the lot had low tire tread. This alarmed him — his beloved uncle had once crashed and suffered serious injuries when driving through a thunderstorm on bald tires. As a result, Leroy made a point of routinely checking the tire tread of cars in the lot and alerting any customers driving unsafe vehicles.

By reshaping his workweek to make a meaningful contribution to others and a societal cause, a practice I’ve dubbed “job purposing,” Leroy has educated hundreds of drivers and almost certainly prevented crashes, injuries, and perhaps even deaths. Leroy isn’t alone. In my book *Do Good at Work: How Simple Acts of Social Purpose Drive Success and Well-being*, I document over 100 examples of job purposing, such as:

- A business in a city where many residents lack access to potable water sets up a free water station at its building and shares its filtered water with the public.

- A manager at a bank invites local nonprofits to use its parking lot on weekends, when the bank is closed, for car wash fundraisers, health fairs, or other activities.
- A pharmacy cashier stays informed about social service programs in the area, carries cards listing them, and shares these cards with customers who express that they’re experiencing difficulties.
- A marketing assistant at an apparel company persuades her superiors to honor World Day Against Trafficking in Persons by turning over the company’s social media accounts for the day to a nonprofit partner dedicated to that cause.
- A driver for a ride-booking service directs the topic of conversations with customers toward better understanding of people with disabilities.

You get the idea. Job purposing makes it possible for any of us to serve through the job we already do. We merely need to do our work differently.

Apply job purposing to Rotary

So, how will *you* job purpose?

Might you:

- Offer a free product or service? If you work at or own a salon, this might be a free haircut to mothers reentering the job market. If you’re a financial planner, this might be a free counseling session to individuals who are unemployed. If your business conducts trainings in leadership, marketing, or other areas, this might be an invitation to local nonprofit staff to attend.

- Loan a conference room for your Rotary club to hold meetings, wall space for artists to display their work, or a venue for another cause?
- Feature the nonprofits your club supports in your company’s social media posts?
- Direct small talk with business relations toward Rotary, including invitations to attend your club’s meetings?

The bottom line? Even if your busy work schedule does not allow you to participate in service events, with a little creative thinking, you can serve.

Transforming work

One day, I pulled into Leroy’s lot to witness him toast his co-worker with a sports drink and exclaim, “I’m so in, bro!” Leroy’s exuberance wasn’t about a date to play basketball, a night out, or anything typically considered fun. It was about agreeing to start work two hours early the next morning to cover for his colleague. Why would he be so animated about more work?

According to Leroy, it’s because of job purposing. Before he started caring for his customers’ safety, he spent much of his shift hunched over his phone, avoiding unnecessary effort, and resenting customers for the attention they required. “Helping others rewired me into the energetic and joyful worker I now am,” he says.

Rotary members — many of whom have experienced what psychologists refer to as the “helper’s high” — won’t be surprised that research suggests that job purposing can boost well-being. Scientists have established, for example, that it douses our brains with dopamine, serotonin, and oxytocin, the same hormones that make intimacy and chocolate wonderful.

This could be the best part of bringing Rotary to work through job purposing. It just might make ordinary workdays as uplifting and fulfilling as your Rotary service has always been. ■

Bea Boccalandro is a corporate purpose adviser, author, and speaker. Her work has been featured in *Harvard Business Review*, *Forbes*, and on the TEDx Talks stage. She’s a member of the Rotary Club of San Clemente, California, and a self-proclaimed comically bad surfer.

PILECON GEOTECHNIC INC.
ARMIE P. CAMINCE

Business Development Manager
Rm. 208 Makati Executive Tower 2, Cityland Square, Dela Rosa St., Brgy Pio del Pilar
Makati City 1230, Metro Manila,
Telefax: (632)8462075 * Mobile: 0917-899-3138 * Email: pgi.driller@yahoo.com



Geotechnical & Foundations Engineering Services
(Specialized in Borepile & Micro-pile)

RCPC's 38th Anniversary & Induction Ceremonies held last October 12 at Tiara Hotel, Makati City



McDauerhaft®

PREMIUM ALUMINUM & UPVC

www.philconch.com

MR. GERRY MORALES
Tel: 448-8288 / 448-4810 / 447-7799 / 703-2197

JEMM BUILDERS
CIVIL • ELECTRICAL • MECHANICAL



PCAB License: 40067
Telefax: 02-478-0604 Email: jemmbuilders@yahoo.com
Blk 11, Lot 27, Panama St., Casa Monteverde Homes,
Brgy F. De Castro, GMA Cavite
0917-704-6616 / 0947-400-6324

MEGA RICTON

9076 H2 Conchu, Brgy. Conchu,
Trece Martires, Cavite
Tels: 8-273-9396; 8-664-9161;
0945-322-5345
email: mega.ricton@yahoo.com.ph



SAVE MONEY ON YOUR WIRES & CABLES EXPENSES!!!

XLV
LEADING WIRELESS SYSTEM

Leading the development of industry.

XLV BUSDUCT

LIGHTING INNOVATION TECHNOLOGIES & ELECTROMECH CORP. (LITECOR)

Fast Trak Road, San Agustin Village,
Brgy. Moonwalk, Dist. II, Paranaque City
Tel: 0928-709-6020, 8-273-9396
email: manny.meganicon@gmail.com

PANEL BUILDER-FABRICATOR-BUSDUCT SYSTEM- PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE

We carry the following brands of Circuit Breakers & Components!!



Wind Solar Energy Renewables (WISER) Inc.

Unit 1-107 San Andres Condo, Ormaeta Highway

Brgy. 300, San Andres, Manila

Tel: 0928-709-6020; 0945-322-5345

email: wiser_inc11910@gmail.com moran18@yahoo.com



ESSAY

The shot heard round the world

A son recalls his father's great medical achievement — and the moment he experienced that breakthrough firsthand

By Dr. Peter L. Salk



I have been president of the Jonas Salk Legacy Foundation since its founding in 2009. As you can imagine, focusing my attention in that role on the legacy of my father's many contributions to humanity — including his creation of the Salk Institute for Biological Studies, just up the road in La Jolla on a bluff overlooking California's magnificent Pacific Coast — has a special significance for me.

My father, Dr. Jonas Salk, developer of the first polio vaccine, was born in New York City on 28 October 1914, exactly three months after the beginning of World War I. From his earliest days, he was someone who wanted to do something to be helpful to humanity. That impulse and drive may have come in part from an incident that was imprinted in his memory when he was a little boy. At the end of the war, on Armistice Day in 1918, he witnessed a parade filled with soldiers who had come home from battle. Some had been injured or maimed, walking with crutches or using a wheelchair. My father always had a sensitive side, and he was deeply affected by what he had seen.

As he grew older, my father considered going to law school and running for Congress. His mother, who had come over to this country from Russia, astutely advised him that this was not a good decision — especially since, as she put it, “you can't even win an argument with me.” I think she wanted him to become a rabbi, which I don't think was in my father's character.

As it turned out, my father decided to go to City College in New York, and there his studies took an unexpected turn. In his first year, a chemistry course was offered, and this appealed to him. The problem was that the class met on a Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath. His parents were very observant in following Jewish traditions and customs, which meant that my father had a difficult decision to make. In the end, he took the chemistry class, which was the starting point for what turned out to be a long and productive career.

After college, having had such a positive experience training in the sciences, my father enrolled in the New York University College of Medicine. From the start, he knew that he wanted to go into research. During a first-year microbiology class, a professor spoke about vaccines. He explained that, though doctors could use chemically inactivated

toxins to vaccinate against bacterial diseases such as diphtheria and tetanus, they could not use inactivated viruses to immunize against viral diseases such as influenza or polio because protection against infection with viruses required that the body experience an actual infection with the living virus.

That didn't make any sense to my father, and when he asked his teacher why, the professor basically responded, “Well, just because.” That unsatisfactory answer set my father on a journey of discovery that would fulfill his dream to help humanity, in ways and to a degree that he could never have imagined. And it was a journey on which his family, including his three sons, would be carried along.

Following medical school, after a two-year clinical internship at New York's Mount Sinai Hospital, my father went to work with Dr. Thomas Francis Jr., then the head of the epidemiology department at the University of Michigan. My father had previously worked with Dr. Francis on influenza while still a student at NYU College of Medicine, and that had been a seminal experience for him. Working alongside his mentor at Michigan, my father made important contributions to the successful creation of an influenza vaccine, utilizing a chemically inactivated virus, that was introduced for use by the Army at the end of World War II.

In 1947, seeking to head a laboratory of his own, my father moved on to the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. There he took charge of creating the Virus Research Laboratory and, with his growing interest in polio, received a grant for polio research from the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis.

Pandemonium broke loose. The pall of fear that had pervaded this country for so many years was lifted.

As all of this was going on, my father had married and started a family. He met my mother, Donna, while working one summer at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. They married on 9 June 1939, the day after he graduated from medical school with an M.D. degree. I was born five years later, the first of my parents' three sons. During my childhood, polio epidemics became an increasing global scourge. I can remember my parents not allowing us to visit a beloved amusement park when we were on vacation, out of fear of our becoming infected. On another occasion, our family accompanied my father to a polio meeting at the Greenbrier resort in West Virginia. There I saw a girl at a swimming pool who had been disabled by the disease. Because I was around the same age as the girl, that encounter had a lasting impact on me.

During all this time my father and his team were rigorously working to develop a vaccine that would be effective against all three immunologic types of polio. The first human studies with the experimental vaccine were conducted at the D.T. Watson Home for Crippled Children outside of Pittsburgh. These tests included children who had already experienced some form of paralysis due to polio. Because they had already been infected by at least one of the three types of poliovirus, there was no danger they could become paralyzed again if they were injected with the chemically inactivated virus of the same type. It turned out that when these children were injected with the inactivated virus, their antibodies against the virus were boosted. Since antibodies in the blood stream were all that was needed to prevent the virus from traveling to the brain and spinal cord and killing the nerve cells that control muscle movement, when that information was confirmed, my father knew that the vaccine he and his team had been working on should be a success.

At one point early on, my father had tested the experimental vaccine on himself and his lab workers. And one day it was our turn, me and my two brothers, ages 9, 6, and not quite 3 years old. As you can imagine, I was not very happy to be part of this joyful experience. Our father came home with the vaccine, and he proceeded to sterilize the daunting glass syringes and the metal needles by

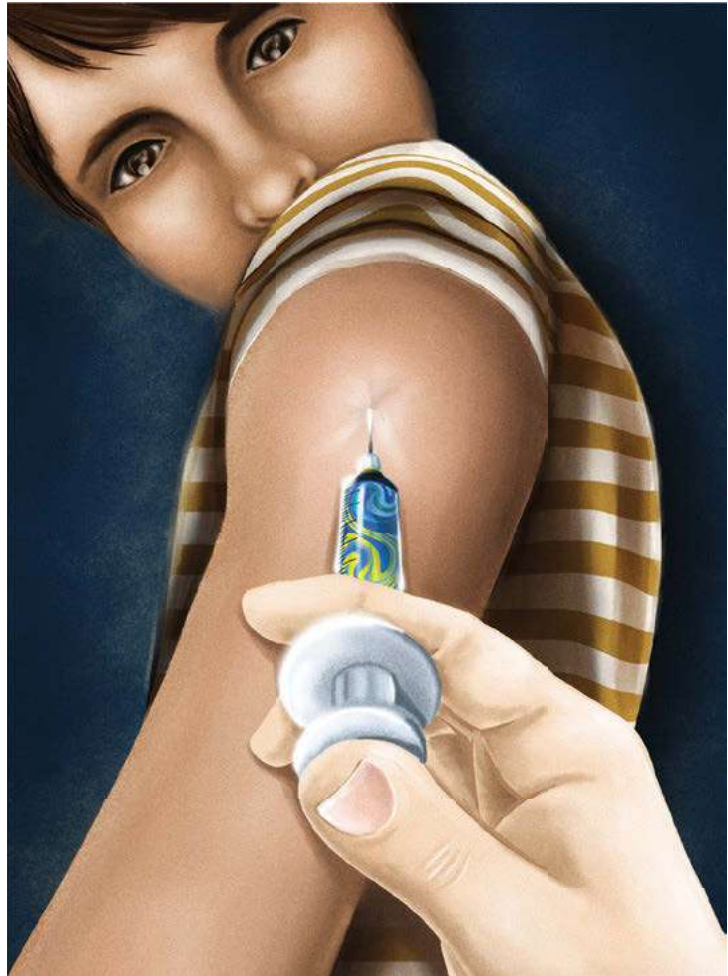
boiling them on the kitchen stove. I was absolutely not a fan of needles — but what child is? I stood there, miserable and looking out the window, my arm held out and awaiting the injection. And then something miraculous happened: I didn't feel the needle. It didn't hurt, unlike every other shot I'd ever had. And for that reason, that day is burnt into my memory forever.

Two years later, on 12 April 1955, my father joined Dr. Francis at a press conference at the University of Michigan. Dr. Francis had been tasked with analyzing the results of the vast clinical trial of the experimental vaccine, and now he made an announcement that would change medical history: The vaccine had been demonstrated to be up to 90 percent effective in preventing polio. Pandemonium broke loose. Kids were let out of school, church bells rang, factory whistles blew. The pall of fear that had pervaded this country for so many years was lifted. I get goose bumps thinking about it even all these years later.

In 1955, more than 10 million children received one or more injections of the Salk vaccine. Within one year, polio cases and deaths in the United States had been nearly halved, a trend that continued and made a vision of polio eradication a possibility.

Today, that goal is getting ever closer to reality. Rotary International has been a champion in ensuring that one day — and, I hope, one day soon — that goal will be reached. Rotary helped found the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, and it continues to put a major emphasis on getting the job done, as does the Gates Foundation, with its generous donations, and the other organizations that are part of the GPEI. Everyone is working unbelievably hard, and practical work is being done on the ground where it's most essential. Efforts are underway to remove obstacles and deal with societal issues that have impeded progress in some remaining parts of the world.

The contributions Rotary has made toward eradicating polio have been indispensable, and its indomitable spirit has been a driving force in this effort. I've had the great pleasure on many occasions of speaking to and with members of Rotary, and each time it has been an uplifting experience. The desire shared



by Rotary members to help the world is inspiring and mirrors the driving force in my father's life.

My father was the author of several books. One of them, recently published in an updated version as *A New Reality: Human Evolution for a Sustainable Future*, he co-wrote with my brother Jonathan. Seeing that title, and the titles of the other books he wrote, provides insights into where my father's interests and hopes lay. They also suggest where we should turn our efforts and energies next.

As my father did with polio, we need to go beyond theorizing. We can have grand desires for the human species, but we need to create and utilize real and useful tools that can have a direct impact on societal interactions and environmental imbalances. Humanity seems to be

facing monumental problems, but they can be overcome. Just look at what my father accomplished. Seventy years ago, there was a vaccine in a bottle, and today we're almost at the point of achieving a once unimaginable outcome.

I feel a devotion to my father, and I feel a responsibility to ensure that his ways of thinking and his contributions are fully understood. He embraced the entire world in his scientific, humanistic, and philosophical vision for the future, and the elements of his legacy will continue to reach into everyone's lives. ■

Dr. Peter L. Salk is president of the Jonas Salk Legacy Foundation in La Jolla, California, and a part-time professor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Public Health.



GIVE US YOUR BEST SHOT

The Rotary magazine Photo Awards return in the June 2025 issue. It's your chance to share your vision of the world, be it in glorious color or classic black and white. Members of Rotary and their families may submit photos until 31 December. But don't wait: Send us your images today. Submit your photos at rotary.org/photoawards.

PHOTOGRAPHS: (FROM TOP) ERIC STRAND; LEIGH ANN WILSON; KEITH MARSH

+

A photographer documents progress and promise on the road to stop polio for good

BY JEAN-MARC GIBOUX

CHASING POLIO





**ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
1997**

At the time I took this photo, there weren't too many places for kids who had polio to receive treatment. The Cheshire Home, part of a worldwide network, was giving them reconstructive surgery and a place to live. What I love about this photo is that kids are kids. The child's legs had to be reconstructed, but he's having a blast on the playground like any other kid.



AS A FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHER, I WAS LOOKING FOR A GREAT STORY FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM

when I read an article in the *Chicago Tribune* in 1997 about the drive to eradicate polio. I noticed a local connection: Rotary. I called Rotary and the organization gave me a grant to cover the story. The Rotary team picked five places in the world for me to visit. Starting in 1997, I spent a year traveling to Turkey, India, Nepal, Ethiopia, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta. At the end of my travels, *Life* magazine picked up the story and published it in the November 1998 issue.

I went on to cover the polio eradication effort for 18 years. I kept the subject fresh by trying to link polio eradication with major events happening in the world. For example, I decided to see the polio vaccinations in 2004 during the conflict in the Darfur region in Sudan. There were more than 200,000 refugees in Chad on the border with Sudan. Just getting there was very difficult. I had a contact with Doctors Without



Borders — the group was handling health care on the border. I stayed in tents with doctors and nurses in the camp for a week. I would follow them on their daily routine to do the vaccinations. It was interesting to get to see what was happening in people's private spaces. The polio program allowed me to get into those places.

I was impressed by the way the polio campaign was done from the bottom up. It reminds me of an ant colony working together. It's teachers, nurses, health workers, anybody. It's a pretty simple vaccination to give, and so everybody's involved. Hundreds of thousands of people are contributing. ■



JEAN-MARC GIBOUX SPEAKS MORE ABOUT HIS EXPERIENCES AS A PHOTOGRAPHER COVERING POLIO ERADICATION ON THE ROTARY VOICES PODCAST. LISTEN AT ON.ROTARY.ORG/PODCAST.



**FREETOWN,
SIERRA LEONE
1998**

This is one of my favorite photos. I was on my first assignment with the World Health Organization. As in Ethiopia, the Cheshire Home was a place for kids with polio. There were no parents there. The children were in a big estate surrounded by walls, and outside those walls a civil war was raging. What always stayed with me about this is that it was such a haven of peace, of retreat, for them to be there. I had to be evacuated because the war was worsening. I don't know what happened to them afterward.





**DELHI, INDIA
1998**

At the Amar Jyoti Research and Rehabilitation Centre there is an integrated school where children with polio study alongside children who don't have polio. This photo was striking because of the condition of their legs.

It was such an intense picture when you see how they got reconstructive surgery. Their legs are supported by metal rods; they get shoes, but they still need crutches. They are the lucky ones. They are getting an education.



**DELHI, INDIA
2004**

This photo of insulated boxes captures a behind-the-scenes glimpse of the campaign — the importance of the cold chain in the drive to eradicate polio. The polio vaccine is cheap to produce, but it has to be kept cold all the way to

delivery. That is one of the biggest challenges of the campaign, because in some places there is no electricity. So everywhere I went there were always those ice boxes. From Africa to Asia to everywhere, always the same small boxes.





**HERAT PROVINCE,
AFGHANISTAN
2002**

I was following teams of vaccinators just after the fall of the Taliban, when there were a couple of years where it was easier to travel around Afghanistan. Over 100,000 people lived in the Maslakh settlement, where displaced people came to stay. There was

a food distribution center where they would line up for hours. That's where you'd find the children. You could see who was vaccinated in the camp and who wasn't by looking for the marking on their finger. That little girl in the center of the picture is getting a ticket to be in the food line.



**MATHURA DISTRICT, INDIA
2015**

This photo of nurses and health workers at the Farah Community Health Centre is from the first anniversary of a polio-free India. When the end of polio was celebrated, of course it happened in New Delhi with the cabinet ministers. But the really hard work was being done by hundreds of thousands of workers going by foot door to door. The lines, the visuals, the composition make the picture beautiful.



**NEW DELHI, INDIA
2004**

The Akshya Pratisthan school is another private education and rehabilitation in an integrated environment. When I go into places like this, I'm taking a lot of pictures. In this one, they're lining up to pray before school. It's a nice environment — it's early morning and there's beautiful light. The photo's composition is more geometric and drives you to the boy's face.





**“I kept the subject fresh
by trying to link polio
eradication with major events
happening in the world.”**

MEMBERSHIP SUMMIT

Champions for Peace:

‘Empowering Southeast Asia’s Young Leaders for Social Cohesion and Harmony’

is kicking off in the Philippines

MANILA, PHILIPPINES, October 4, 2024 – As Pope Francis’ visit to Southeast Asia, including Singapore, continues to inspire calls for intercultural dialogue, unity, and peace, the program Champions for Peace is kicking off to empower young leaders across the region to make meaningful contributions to social harmony and sustainable development.

This program, aligned with Pope Francis’ message of building bridges between communities, will take root in the Philippines before extending to Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand. Addressing social cohesion and environmental sustainability concerns, the Champions for Peace program will equip young leaders from diverse backgrounds with the tools and resources to lead community-based initiatives that drive meaningful impact over the next three years.

The Kristiyano-Islam Peace Library (KRIS), a youth-led nonprofit organization based in the Philippines, will collaborate with the Kofi Annan Foundation on program implementation in partnership with the Temasek Foundation, Nagulendran Philanthropy Alliance, and Diana Koh Fund.

Inspired by the successful collaboration between KRIS and the Kofi Annan Foundation since 2020, Corinne Momal-Vanian, Executive Director of the Kofi Annan Foundation, emphasized, “It is a privilege to collaborate with such dedicated partners on building bridges between youth from various communities and promoting harmony in Southeast Asia. Engaging closely with the youth

from the region, who are acutely vulnerable to challenges, climate change, and loss of livelihoods, is especially crucial.”

The program will commence in the Philippines, where a baseline study will be conducted to assess the specific needs of local communities. With the insights gathered, tailored training will be developed for 100 young leaders, who will then implement their own initiatives to address social and environmental fragility, supported by seed grants. This initial phase reflects the broader goal of the Champions for Peace program, which is to build resilience and foster collaboration across diverse communities in Southeast Asia.

Ng Boon Heong, CEO of Temasek Foundation, highlighted the significance of this endeavor and collaboration to foster social cohesion and promote sustainable practices, “This partnership enables us to support young change-makers who are making a difference in their communities. We are excited about the many youth-led programmes and solutions that will be developed from this Champions for Peace program and look forward to supporting the positive impact they will bring both locally and regionally.”

Following the initial phase in the Philippines, the program will extend its reach to Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand, continuing to select and train young leaders in each country. This cascading model ensures the program’s impact resonates throughout Southeast Asia, creating a network of young change-makers committed to peace and cohesion. Participants will also



From top: Corinne Momal-Vanian, Executive Director of the Kofi Annan Foundation; Arizza Nocom, co-founder of KRIS; John Nagulendran, Co-Founder of Nagulendran Philanthropy Alliance; and Janet Lim, Executor of the Diana Koh Fund.

have opportunities to engage in regional collaboration through online workshops and a face-to-face gathering, where they can share experiences, exchange ideas, and amplify their collective impact.

Through these efforts, the Champions for Peace program aims to leave a lasting legacy by training 650 young leaders. These individuals will return to their communities equipped with the knowledge and skills to foster intercultural dialogue and sustainable development. Their work, supported by ongoing mentorship and collaboration, will inspire further efforts to promote social harmony across the region.

As Arizza Nocum, co-founder of KRIS, aptly put it, “In Filipino, we have a word called “Bayanihan,” which is derived from the word “Bayani,” which means “hero.” Roughly, Bayanihan describes the process of being heroes together, and that is what we want to achieve with this program—a regional Bayanihan made up of young Southeast Asians working towards social cohesion and collective upliftment.”

Janet Lim, Executor of the Diana Koh Fund administered by Asia Community Foundation, also noted, “Through my journey of

giving, I recognize that communities in Asia face very complex challenges, and youths have the potential to make a big difference if given the opportunity. I am delighted to participate in the Champions for Peace program to empower young leaders in Southeast Asia to come together, learn from each other, and contribute positively to their communities.”

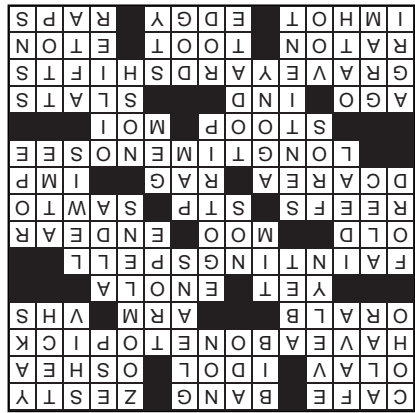
Lastly, John Nagulendran, Co-Founder of Nagulendran Philanthropy Alliance, added, “At Nagulendran Philanthropy Alliance, our mission is to harness the strategic value of private philanthropy to support and inspire the next generation of peacemakers. We are therefore delighted to be a partner of the Champions for Peace program alongside our fellow Singaporean philanthropists.”

Together, the alliance is set to support this regional initiative and thus commit to empowering Southeast Asia’s next generation of leaders to create meaningful and lasting impact in the realization of former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan’s vision: “...it is young people’s hope and energy, their enthusiasm and willingness to experiment, that makes society move forward.”

Take Us with you

rotary.org/
magazine

Top stories
Web exclusives
Podcasts





THE ONE PHILIPPINES 2024

Education can end poverty

by Sue Villa-Sta. Maria

When Mark M. Soriano first set foot in the four-story-building of Young Focus (YF) Philippines in Tondo for a job interview, he was immediately whisked to the community where YF’s target beneficiaries live — nearby Smokey Mountain, once an international showcase of urban squalor and destitution. It is known as the largest dumpsite in Manila.

Soriano was overwhelmed by the sight and stench of poverty. Here lived the adolescents he would have to convince to attend school at YF for free — the scavengers, rugby sniffers,

gang members in conflict with the law, juveniles who are abused, neglected, and/or exploited. Literally living in a huge dumpsite, the residents have maintained a mindset of abandon and purposelessness.

The place was not new to Soriano; he had been invited to speak in Smokey Mountain as a youth worker several years back. Still, the overwhelming sense of privation struck him so powerfully that he literally felt a pain in his heart.

Although Soriano had initial fears for his personal safety if he would work in Tondo, a sense of pity overcame him. He made an immediate decision to ac-

cept the job of Program Coordinator and Teacher at YF. It was a challenge he could not turn his back on.

This was in 2015. Today, Soriano still works with the youth of Smokey Mountain through YF. At 47, he looks youthful and has been able to blend well with the juveniles of Smokey Mountain. “They know that I understand their needs, so we communicate well,” he says.

Soriano’s employer is an NGO that addresses the myriad of issues of the youth and their families of Smokey Mountain who rely directly or indirectly for their basic needs on the dumpsite where they live. The families rummage



Clockwise from opposite top: Soriano brings the Smokey Mountain children to Mt. Daraitan in Tanay, Rizal, for a hiking adventure; Soriano spends some free time with the youth of Smokey Mountain; The students don blue shirts given by a donor; Soriano teaches Basic English to the beneficiaries; The ukulele team keeps the young boys occupied.

for anything useful that has been thrown into the site by garbage dumpers from the city. The young boys steal merchandise from the back of trucks caught in traffic near the area. There is dire poverty. Many children are unable to complete their education, and as a result, are unable to break the cycle of poverty.

Like YF, Soriano believes that education is the most important instrument to end poverty. Soriano and other youth workers implement a government-approved Alternative Learning System (ALS) to enable their beneficiaries to finish elementary and high school, and eventually complete a vocational or college course. Music and other social and creative activities are held. YF offers lunch and permits the youth to hang out in certain areas in its building. The youth are allowed to shower and wash their clothes within the premises as a way of teaching personal hygiene.

Reflecting on the prevailing culture

in Smokey Mountain but asserting that hope is possible, Soriano recalls that one of his students was shot in the head by another student. Both were 15 years old. They were playing with a “paltik” (a home-made gun). Treating both students with compassion and fairness, Soriano visited the victim at the hospital and spent time with the offender at the correctional institute. The victim died. After five years, the offender was freed. Thankfully, the offender changed his life and took a vocational course at the Don Bosco Youth Center. Now with a family, he has left Smokey Mountain and works with a fast food chain. Soriano takes pride that YF has produced elementary, high school and college graduates. “Who knows,” he says, “some of these youth might become teachers and inspire other youth who were once like them.”

Soriano openly wept onstage when he was proclaimed the grand winner of TOP 2024. In the arm of his 83-year-old

mother, he accepted a replica of a check worth P1.5 million, and a trophy.

Back in Tondo after the Benefit Gala Night, an architect has begun planning for the renovation of the four-story building where YF operates. Soriano’s cash prize will be used to add classrooms and provide a safe place where the children of Smokey Mountain can play. The roof deck will serve as a venue for recognition events, parents’ meetings and monthly fellowship activities.

Soriano was endorsed by the Rotaract Club of Manila of Rotary International (RI) District 3810, the youth arm of the Rotary Club of Manila led by its President, Jackie Rodriguez. The Rotaractors met Soriano while conducting service projects in Smokey Mountain.

Moving forward, The One Philippines continues its search for the next outstanding unsung hero who endeavours to alleviate suffering and poverty in a Philippine community.

Youth worker is

THE ONE PHILIPPINES


2024

“This is a good time to be a Filipino,” declared the Chair Emeritus of The One Philippines (TOP), Past RI Director Raffy Garcia III, at the Benefit Gala Night recognizing the top three winners of The One Philippines 2024, a search for unsung heroes who are non-Rotarians, at least 21 years old, who endeavour to alleviate suffering and poverty in a Philippine community.

The event was held at the Lanson Place Mall of Asia on September 18, 2024. The award aims to further the unsung hero's good work with a monetary reward. This is in line with the Rotary motto of “Service above Self”, of improving lives in the community, the workplace, and the world.

Mark M. Soriano, a Program Coordinator and Teacher at Young Focus Philippines, won the title of TOP 2024 and a Php 1.5M cash prize for his project (see article in this issue, “Education Can End Poverty”). Soriano was endorsed by the Rotaract Club of Manila, the youth service arm of the Rotary Club of Manila of District 3810 led by Jack Rodriguez. Soriano was chosen from 29 nominees sourced from the ten Rotary districts in the Philippines.

The first runner up in this year's TOP competition was Roy Moore, a UK national who is Executive Director of Fairplay for All, a foundation that provides free education



→
Right: TOP
2024 winner
Mark Soriano
immerses in
the Smokey
Mountain com-
munity.





to 200 Payatas drop-outs, vagrant and poor children. Moore was endorsed by the Rotary Club of Midtown Quezon City of RI District 3780. Moore received a cash prize of Php 500,000 for Fair Play.

The second runner up was Patricia Gonzales-Cruz who developed ALPA-BASA, a teaching method that effectively teaches reading in Pilipino to kindergarten students. It is very timely since studies show that the Philippines is one of the bottom 10 countries in reading skills. To-date, the program has helped hundreds of thousands of students. Cruz was endorsed by the Rotary Club of Makati Premier District, RI District 3830.

TOP is a subsidiary project of The One International Humanitarian Award founded by Past District Governor (PDG) David Harilela of District 3450 (Hong Kong, Macao and Mongolia). Harilela offered a franchise of the humanitarian award, to which Garcia immediately responded.

The award was formally introduced in the Philippines through a formal Benefit and Gala Night held at the Marriott Hotel Manila in 2018. A student who taught street children in the sidewalks of

Manila, Dara Mae Tuazon, was adjudged the first TOP winner. A mangrove farmer from Bohol, Rogelio Timbal, was selected as the second TOP winner in 2022.

Garcia is assisted by Chairman PDG Rolando “Oyan” Villanueva and six Vice Chairs who are all Past District Governors, Connie Beltran-de Venecia, Isidro “Sid” Garcia, Ursula “Chit” Lijauco, Michael “Mike” Lirio, Rufino “Penny” Policarpio and Suzanne “Sue” Villa-Sta. Maria.

TOP funds its monetary rewards through three Million-A-Year lifetime donors in each year that it is held: Garcia, Villanueva, and an anonymous donor.

The prize pool of the winners usually amounts to more than their cash awards with additional pledges from those in the audience who are touched by their projects.

“The tearful eyes are the ultimate reward for the time and resources we dedicate in helping the needy,” TOP Chairman Villanueva said. — SSM

↑ This page, from top: TOP 2024 winner Mark Soriano beams onstage; PDG Twinkle Gamboa and spouse PP/Gen Archie Gamboa.





← Top row: TOP Chairman Emeritus Raffy Garcia III delivers an inspirational message; Edna Sutter and spouse Martin cheer as Soriano's victory is announced.



← Second row: Soriano weeps as he is joined onstage by his mother and (from left) TOP Chair Emeritus Raffy Garcia III and TOP Chair Oyan Villanueva; The One Humanitarian Award founder David Harirela delivers a speech.



← Third row: Vice Chair Sid Garcia and spouse Tessa; The District Coordinators are acknowledged onstage (from left) Bobby Tanyag, Oliver Ong, Everett Olivan, Ana Maria Lorenzana, Liza Elorde and Lulu Alino, accompanied by TOP Committee members Lilibeth de la Cruz, Vice Chair Connie Beltran, Vice Chair Chit Lijauco and Chair Oyan Villanueva.



← Bottom row: Sharon Hughes-Bediones and Frannie Jacinto (fourth and fifth from left) are chosen Best Dressed Ladies by Gemma Cruz-Araneta, Tingting Cojuanco and Vice Chair Chit Lijauco. From left are TOP Committee member May Ann Locsin Katigbak, Araneta, Cojuangco, Hughes-Bediones, Jacinto and Lijauco; Gala Night attendees Ziegredo Mercado, TOP Vice Chair Chit Lijauco, Minda Garcia, Maryselle Olivan, Lilibeth de la Cruz, Chairman Emeritus Raffy Garcia III, Vice Chair Connie Beltran and Everett Olivan;

→ Top row: The TOP five finalists (from left), Roger Moore, Patricia Gonzales-Cruz, Mark Soriano, Margaux Atayde-Romero and Dr. Brent Andrew Viray.



→ Second row: The Execom Vice Chairs sit on the ledge of the stage with David Harirela (from left) Penny Policarpio, Sue Villa-Sta. Maria, Chit Lijauco, Harirela, Connie Beltra, Sid Garcia and Mike Lirio. Onstage are Tony Meloto, Chairman Emeritus Raffy Garcia III and Chair Oyan Villanueva; PCRG Chair Congressman/DG Odie Tarruela and spouse Elenita support TOP 2024.



→ Bottom row: Vice Chair Connie Beltran welcomes TOP winner Mark Soriano and his mother to the event; TOP Million-A-Year lifetime donors are Chairman Emeritus Raffy Garcia III and Chair Oyan Villanueva; Past President Zuegfredo Mercado wins a complete set of coffee maker from Blu Coffee, awarded onstage by Vice Chair Sue Villa-Sta. Maria and Chair Oyan Villanueva.



ESSAY

Measures of giving: a healing memoir

by Mary Anne Solomon

One of the most extraordinary feats of our magical journey is the near eradication of polio. What was once an unthinkable dream is now within our grasp, thanks to the relentless dedication and hard work of Rotarians

This achievement symbolizes the power of our collective efforts and the magic we can create together.

Where is the magic here: from 125 countries with 350,000 WPV in 1985, we are now down to two endemic countries Afghanistan and Pakistan with 18 WPV at present.

I am deeply grateful to share a personal journey with breast cancer, a tough chapter in my life that became a gateway to advocating for early detection and saving lives. In Rotary, this advocacy has been a cornerstone, shared not only in District 3860 but across the world—a testament to the magic of collaboration among Rotary districts globally.

On Sept. 2 2004, when I was diagnosed with breast cancer, I felt I was handed a death sentence. I went to a roller coaster of emotions, fear, anger, and denial. But I knew I had to snap out of these negative emotions. I had to make a choice to live or die and that whatever choice I made, I would give it my best shot.

It has been exactly 20 years since my diagnosis. I am a living proof that because of early detection, I am with you now and cancer free.

People always look at cancer patients as victims, but do they know that the victims are their loved ones, too. They are going through their own roller coaster of emotions that they cannot express.

I have been told that worries end when faith begins. My prayers set the tone of my cancer journey.



From the start, because of my involvement in Rotary and service, my cancer journey became easier. From day one, my family, ICS sisters, batchmates, Rotarians and friends have been cheerleaders for life. I have never been as inspired by life itself and I hope all of you will be too.

Each of us will one day be judged by our standard of life and not by our standard of living—and by measures of giving and not by the measures of wealth, by our simple goodness not by our greatness. Everything happens for a reason according to God's plan and in his time.

Life is too short we should live a life that matters. Whether you are ready or not someday your life will come to an end. How would you want to be remembered? At the end of the day, it is not the duration of one's life that matters but the donation of one's life.

Mary Anne Solomon is a member of Rotary International's Polio Committee and was End Polio Now Coordinator for Zone 10A. She is Past District Governor of D3860.

Insights from a journey

This is my story... In my cancer journey, these are the important things I've learned that:

- making a "living" is not the same as "making a life."
- life continues giving you a second chance.
- you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands; you need to be able to throw some things back.
- whenever I decide something with an open heart, I usually make the right decision.
- even when I have pains, I don't have to be one.
- everyday you should reach out and touch someone.
- people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people never forget how you made them feel.
- faith can get me through pain and suffering.
- to look at my weakness and aim for perfection.
- to be strong and fight my own battle.
- to value the presence of my family and friends.
- that my doctors can be my friends... it is the doctor's disclosure at the start that makes a difference in one's cancer journey.
- that people care for me.
- I've learned that I have so many reasons to be happy.
- that I shall have a lot to learn in spite of cancer.
- that life can be better after cancer.
- I've learned that everything happens for a reason according to God's time and according to His plans.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

A future transformed

After her life was changed by an Ambassadorial Scholarship, a future Rotary director resolved to change the lives of others



For Eve Conway-Ghazi, an Ambassadorial Scholarship that funded her master's in broadcast journalism was just her "first gift from Rotary."

In 1980, **Eve Conway-Ghazi arrived in Evanston, Illinois**, to study at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. A graduate of Queen Mary University with a degree in English, she'd recently been a reporter for a newspaper in East London. It was there that her editor, a Rotarian, had told Conway-Ghazi about Rotary's Ambassadorial Scholarships program. She secured one of the scholarships and found herself in this new country and a new city. Little did she know the changes that lay ahead, or the reason she'd find herself returning to that city in the years to come.

"The scholarship was my first gift from Rotary," says Conway-Ghazi, who today is serving as a director of Rotary International, one of several prominent leadership roles she's held at the organization. "It transformed my life, and it left me wanting to transform the lives of other people around the world."

But first those changes. While at Northwestern and working toward a master's in broadcast journalism, Conway-Ghazi was assigned to serve as the Washington correspondent for KOTV, a CBS affiliate in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The news director may have admired the rookie reporter for some unexpected reasons — "Everything you say sounds so intelligent with your British accent" — but the skills Conway-Ghazi acquired at KOTV and Northwestern allowed her to transition from newspapers to radio and television when she returned home to England. After working for a number of broadcast outlets, she spent 20 years at BBC News as a reporter and producer.

While all of this was going on, Conway-Ghazi slowly found her way back to Rotary. Or perhaps it's more accurate to say that Rotary — which did not admit women as members until the late 1980s — found its way back to Conway-Ghazi. While suffering from the flu, she consulted a doctor, who, as with her early editor, was a Rotarian. He invited her to speak at his club, and after speaking at several other Rotary clubs, Conway-Ghazi joined

the Rotary Club of Redbridge, based in Greater London, in 2000. (The club recently merged with another to become the Rotary Club of Barkingside and Redbridge, and Conway-Ghazi remains a member.)

Conway-Ghazi quickly rose through the ranks of Rotary, serving as club president and, in 2012-13, as the first female district governor for Rotary in London. She'd follow that, in 2016-17, with a term as president of Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland.

By then, Conway-Ghazi had been married for a decade. The fact that she and her husband, Robert Hossein Ghazi, met had, in a way, been another gift from Rotary. The two first ran into each other in April 2003 while hurrying to a Rotary district assembly in London's Covent Garden. Ghazi gave her his business card and invited her to join him on a boat ride. As it happened, Conway-Ghazi was about to depart to the United States for a month and was unable to join him. In the months that followed, Ghazi extended other invitations, which she continued to decline. "He was very persistent," she'd later remember, "and I was very busy."

After a year, the two finally had dinner at a Russian restaurant in London. And in April 2006, three years after Rotary had first brought them together — and three days

after Conway-Ghazi had returned from filming a BBC documentary about women battling breast cancer in Pakistan with Cherie Blair, the spouse of Prime Minister Tony Blair — the couple were married. It's another reason, says Conway-Ghazi, that "joining Rotary was the best decision I made in my life."

At each step of her Rotary journey, Conway-Ghazi followed through on her desire to transform the lives of others. In 2007, wanting to promote inspiring stories about young people, she founded the Rotary Young Citizen Awards in association with BBC News. Five years later, working with Rotary members in London and Mumbai, she organized a vocational training team of medical professionals from London who traveled to India to train doctors, nurses, and health workers in rural Jawhar — a project that helped improve childbirth outcomes there.

One of Conway-Ghazi's great passions remains fighting polio, and in 2016 she launched the Purple4Polio campaign in Great Britain and Ireland. That passion stems from what Conway-Ghazi describes as her Rotary moment. At her first National Immunization Day in India, she administered two drops of the polio vaccine to a child as his mother looked on. "She couldn't speak English, but I could

see it in her eyes," Conway-Ghazi recalls. "Her child had been immunized against polio, and it had been transformative for them. It touched my heart."

Rotary's investment in that young journalist has paid off in other ways. Using skills she acquired during her career, Conway-Ghazi produced video interviews for Rotary GB&I's marketing and membership campaign. "We have to tell the story that what Rotary is all about is projects with impact that save lives," she says.

Sadly, Robert Ghazi died last December. "The Rotary family is helping me get through," Conway-Ghazi explains when back in Evanston for a Board meeting. "And I continue to be very busy working as an RI director, which is such a privilege."

"Rotary transformed my life," she continues, repeating something she'd said earlier, only this time talking about much more than her Ambassadorial Scholarship. "In a remarkable way, through a network of people, it allowed one person to change the world. Helping to eradicate polio and making history: I never would have done any of that without Rotary. And Rotary continues to offer me so many wonderful opportunities to help others." The transformed has become the transformer.

— GEOFFREY JOHNSON

PHOTOGRAPHS: COURTESY OF EVE CONWAY-GHAZI



Eve Conway-Ghazi

- Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar, 1980-81
- President, Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland, 2016-17
- Director, Rotary International, 2023-present

From left: Conway-Ghazi participating in a National Immunization Day in India in 2017, and conducting an interview earlier this year for Rotary GB&I's marketing and membership campaign.

DISPATCHES FROM
OUR SISTER MAGAZINES
ROTARY BRASIL

Female-owned businesses boom in Brazil



↑ The Remarkable Day project, which promotes female entrepreneurship, was born from the Remarkable Women project, created by Rotaractor Roberta Schneider Cecyn (speaking) and a friend.

Over the past decade, the number of female business owners in Brazil has grown significantly, representing a cultural shift in which women are increasingly recognized for their contributions to economic growth and societal well-being. In 2014, Brazil had about 7.9 million female entrepreneurs, most of them running small businesses, according to Sebrae, a Brazilian small business support service. By 2022 that number had surged to more than 10.3 million, with women accounting for more than 34 percent of business owners in the country, according to a women’s entrepreneurship survey by Sebrae.

To capitalize on that growth, Rotary clubs in Brazil have promoted women’s empowerment through

entrepreneurship. The eMe Project, founded by District 4751 (northern Rio de Janeiro and Espírito Santo) during the 2020-21 Rotary year, aims to instill a culture of entrepreneurship and provide women with skills to succeed in business.

The project operates a School of Women Entrepreneurs that offers courses to foster innovation, business acumen, and strategic planning. Created during the COVID-19 pandemic, classes take place online. Award and certificate ceremonies are held in person, hosted by a Rotary club. In addition, lesson videos remain available to everyone at youtube.com/@projetoeme.

The programs for teens and adults have helped numerous people. “It was incredible,” says Julia

André, one of the winners from the second round of training. “The project helped me develop skills as an entrepreneur, in addition to the encouragement of the whole team, all the mentoring and lectures. Because I won, I had an incentive to help my business grow, and that makes all the difference.” Dalila Lanchin, another winner, adds, “It was more than a financial mentorship; it helped me to look to the future.”

Every year, about 140 women enroll. Winners receive financial aid and ongoing mentoring to help scale their ventures, ensuring that the impact of the eMe Project extends beyond the classroom. So far, 39 women have won awards, and 420 people have benefited from the project.

The effort involves more than 30 volunteers connected to Rotary and 70 speakers, mentors, and jury members who rank the participants' achievements and give feedback throughout the process.

Initially, the district's Rotary members promoted the learning opportunity through word of mouth in communities, schools, and universities. As partners came on board, they publicized registration through social networks. The project also has its own store with mugs, shirts, keychains, and pens with the eMe logo. The profits go toward maintenance of the project and its awards.

The initiative has led to an unexpected benefit. Some participants, impressed by their experience, have been interested in joining Rotary, says Thamyres Andrade, coordinator of eMe and former Rotaract representative of District 4751.

Remarkable Day: celebrating women entrepreneurs in Santos

Further south in Santos, another Rotary initiative put women's entrepreneurship in the spotlight.

→ The Remarkable Day project supports women who are entrepreneurs with a products and services fair, workshops, and lectures.



The first Notáveis Day (Remarkable Day), organized by District 4420 Rotaract clubs in partnership with public relations students, celebrated female entrepreneurs by showcasing their products, services, and achievements. It included workshops, panels, and lectures for the public.

Roberta Schneider Cecyn, 2023-24 president of the Rotaract Club of Santos-Porto, emphasizes the importance of recognizing and supporting women in business through efforts like Remarkable Day. The event is an offshoot of the project Notáveis Mulheres (Remarkable Women), created by Cecyn and a friend because they felt women in their city did not receive enough recognition. The two created a workshop to instruct women and girls on issues such as physical and mental health and basic rights. According to Cecyn, the initiative promotes a social environment where women are valued and recognized.

Vocational training for women

Starting your own business requires a solid vocational education. The Rotary Club of Ipatinga is offering vocational training to 70 women in vulnerable situations through its initiative Aprender para Empreender

(Learning for Entrepreneurship). The nine-month program provides free courses in manicure and pedicure, hairstyling, care for older people, and electrical installation. The courses are offered in partnership with an educational institute.

The initiative provides psychological support, and at the end of the program the Ipatinga club supplies the women with a kit of materials to help them start working. The project partners with a school and received funding through a global grant from The Rotary Foundation. "The main function of our club is to support these women for the next six months either in finding employment or to help with their professional development," says Maria Cândida Corrêa, coordinator of the project. "Our goal is to have at least 90 percent employed by the end of the program."

The impact of these varied initiatives in Brazil goes beyond economic outcomes. In empowering women to become entrepreneurs, these programs contribute to broader societal goals of gender equity and social inclusion. By showcasing success stories and providing platforms for women to thrive, Rotary and its partners are paving the way for a more inclusive and equitable future. ■



The Rotary Club of Ipatinga provides vocational training to 70 women in vulnerable situations through its initiative Aprender para Empreender (Learning for Entrepreneurship). Fields include manicure and pedicure, hairstyling, care for older people, and electrical installation.

HANDBOOK

A matter of consequence

Polio eradication focuses on “consequential geographies”

The good news is polio continues to be beaten back to an ever-smaller number of countries. The bad news is that as long as it exists anywhere, it’s a threat everywhere. So how do Rotary and its partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative prioritize where to direct resources to fight the disease?

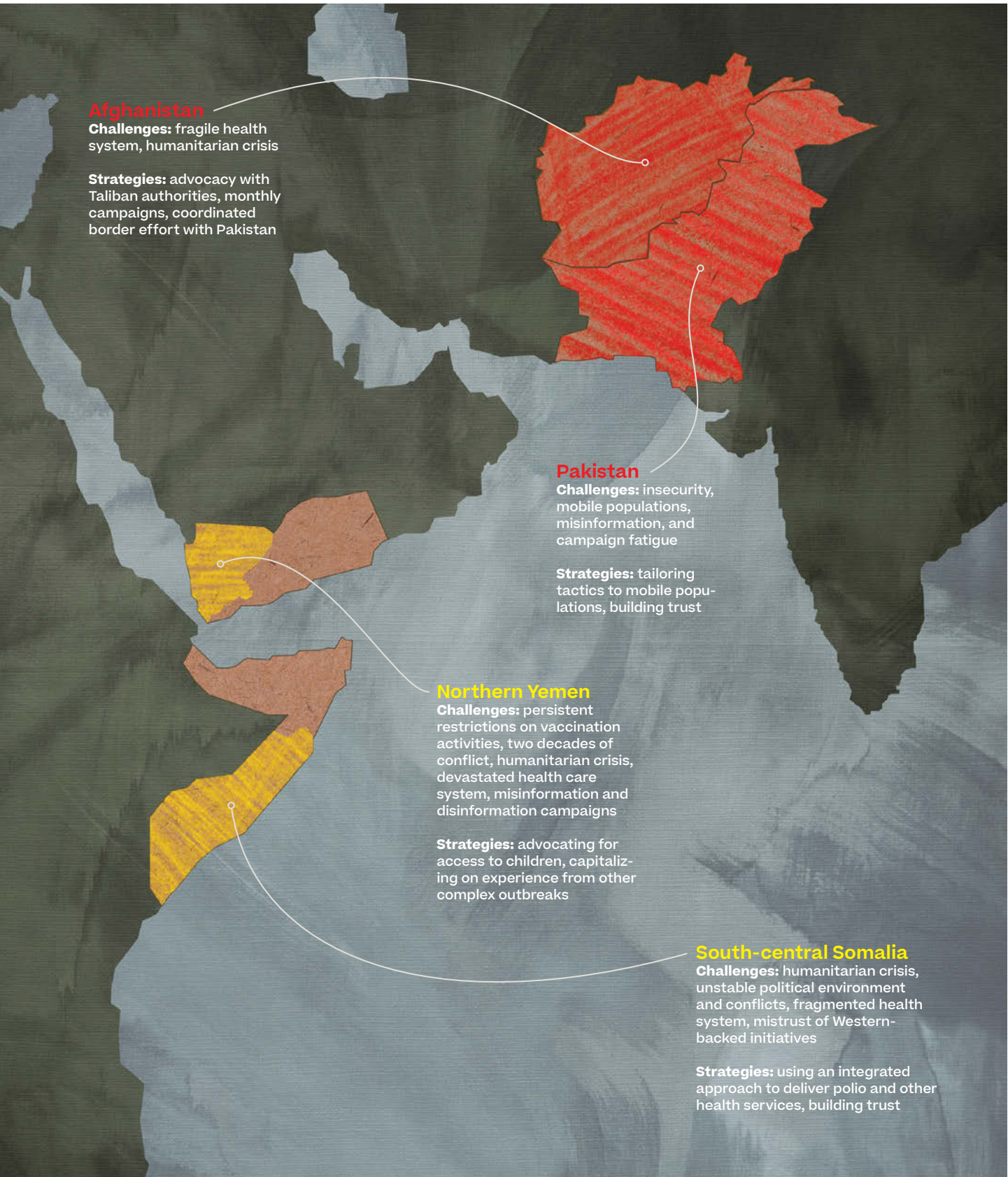
High on the list are the two remaining endemic countries, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Since 1988, the GPEI has reduced cases of wild poliovirus around the world by 99.9 percent, and these two nations are the virus’s last reservoirs.

Outside of the endemic countries, the GPEI has identified four “most consequential geographies” — places where poliovirus variants (also known as vaccine-derived poliovirus) continue to circulate. With complex humanitarian or political environments, they’re prone to repeated outbreaks. These emerge when not enough children are vaccinated against polio, allowing the weakened virus contained in the oral vaccine to circulate. While the number of cases continues to fall, these outbreaks can spread to neighboring countries, and sometimes farther. “It’s been a bit of a revelation,” says Carol Pandak, Rotary’s director of PolioPlus. “Now we have better information about how the virus behaves.”

By prioritizing resources to these four most consequential geographies, the GPEI hopes to turn off the tap to prevent further spread. “The thinking is, if we stop transmission here, we have a better chance of being successful,” Pandak says.

Each of the most consequential geographies has its own challenges — and tailored plans to tackle them. — DIANA SCHOBERG





Afghanistan

Challenges: fragile health system, humanitarian crisis

Strategies: advocacy with Taliban authorities, monthly campaigns, coordinated border effort with Pakistan

Pakistan

Challenges: insecurity, mobile populations, misinformation, and campaign fatigue

Strategies: tailoring tactics to mobile populations, building trust

Northern Yemen

Challenges: persistent restrictions on vaccination activities, two decades of conflict, humanitarian crisis, devastated health care system, misinformation and disinformation campaigns

Strategies: advocating for access to children, capitalizing on experience from other complex outbreaks

South-central Somalia

Challenges: humanitarian crisis, unstable political environment and conflicts, fragmented health system, mistrust of Western-backed initiatives

Strategies: using an integrated approach to deliver polio and other health services, building trust



Mark Maloney (far left) presents John Sever's wife, Gerane, (center) with the International Service Award for a Polio-Free World.

TRUSTEE CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Remembering a hero of polio eradication

World Polio Day, on 24 October, is a time to celebrate progress and rededicate ourselves to finishing the job of eradicating the disease. Let's also honor the countless Rotarians and Rotaractors who have championed the cause. One such hero was John Sever.

Sever, who died in April at age 92, was a member of the Rotary Club of Potomac, Maryland. An infectious disease specialist at the U.S. National Institutes of Health, Sever recommended in 1979 that Rotary make polio eradication a global goal, expanding what began as a national vaccine campaign in the Philippines.

It is hard to imagine where we would stand today without Sever's decades of leadership, expertise, and advocacy. In August, I was honored to present his family with the International Service Award for a Polio-Free World and a crystal recognition piece in Sever's name.

What he helped initiate, PolioPlus, became an example of implementing an action plan in Rotary. Thanks to him — and the volunteerism and generosity of countless others — polio cases have decreased by more than 99 percent since 1988.

The path to our goal could not have been predicted and may take longer than expected. There are sometimes setbacks, as we experienced with increased cases in Pakistan and Afghanistan this year.

But we get back on our feet. This year, we ended an outbreak of wild poliovirus in Malawi and Mozambique that was caused by an importation from Pakistan in 2021, and we decreased variant poliovirus cases. Rotary and our partners stay flexible, developing new tactics while staying focused on the long-term goal, with optimism.

Delivering a polio-free world with stronger health systems and communities is not only right for humanity but also a smart investment in future generations. It will be Rotary's greatest gift to the world.

Countless heroes have followed Sever's lead — from the club president who organized her first End Polio Now fundraiser to the advocates, donors, and volunteers. We are all part of this story.

With your support, this year's World Polio Day will be the greatest ever. Donate to End Polio Now at rotary.org/donate. Your gift will be tripled, thanks to the 2-to-1 match by the Gates Foundation. Join or initiate a PolioPlus Society in your club or district. Raise awareness in your community about how we will eradicate a human disease for only the second time in history.

Whatever you do, do it for future generations who will live without this debilitating disease. Let us deliver on our promise to the world's children and end polio forever.

MARK DANIEL MALONEY
Foundation trustee chair

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

THE OBJECT OF ROTARY

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

First The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

Second High ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

Third The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;

Fourth The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

THE FOUR-WAY TEST

Of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the **truth**?
2. Is it **fair** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **goodwill** and **better friendships**?
4. Will it be **beneficial** to all concerned?

ROTARIAN CODE OF CONDUCT

The following code of conduct has been adopted for the use of Rotarians:

As a Rotarian, I will

1. Act with integrity and high ethical standards in my personal and professional life
2. Deal fairly with others and treat them and their occupations with respect
3. Use my professional skills through Rotary to: mentor young people, help those with special needs, and improve people's quality of life in my community and in the world
4. Avoid behavior that reflects adversely on Rotary or other Rotarians
5. Help maintain a harassment-free environment in Rotary meetings, events, and activities, report any suspected harassment, and help ensure non-retaliation to those individuals that report harassment.

J. Alfonso L. Katigbak
Chairman of the Board



DecraRoofAsia.com



J. ALFONSO L. KATIGBAK
Katigbak Enterprises, Incorporated
Website: KatigbakRoofing.com
Globe Mobile Phone: (63) (917) 504-31-24
Email: al_katigbak@hotmail.com

MAY ANDREA LOCSIN KATIGBAK
Katigbak Enterprises, Incorporated
Website: KatigbakRoofing.com
Globe Mobile Phone: (63) (917) 526-20-53
Email: may_annkatigbak@hotmail.com



2025 CONVENTION

A global peace gathering



Attending the Rotary International Convention in Calgary is a way to support peace. When you walk the House of Friendship, meeting fellow members and learning about clubs' concerns, you add to international understanding. Members spread peace when they write their hopes on paper cranes that they suspend from the peace tree in the Peace Park exhibit. Rotary has promoted peace since its early days: At the fifth convention, in Houston in 1914 a month before World War I, members voted to back an international peace movement.

In Singapore in May, RI marked 25 years since it announced the Rotary Peace Centers program. "To believe in peace is to have hope, and to do so, one must be both stubborn and optimistic and be eager to persist and make a difference," Rotary Peace Fellow María Antonia Pérez said.

Conventions inspire action with prominent speakers that have included United Nations peace messenger and conservationist Jane Goodall in 2009. Archbishop Desmond Tutu, awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for opposing apartheid, spoke that year at a preconvention peace symposium.

While Rotary has its convention as a peacebuilding symbol, Calgary has its Peace Bridge of red metal where thousands of Canadians and visitors walk, bike, and stop for selfies each day. Its name memorializes fallen military members' sacrifices.

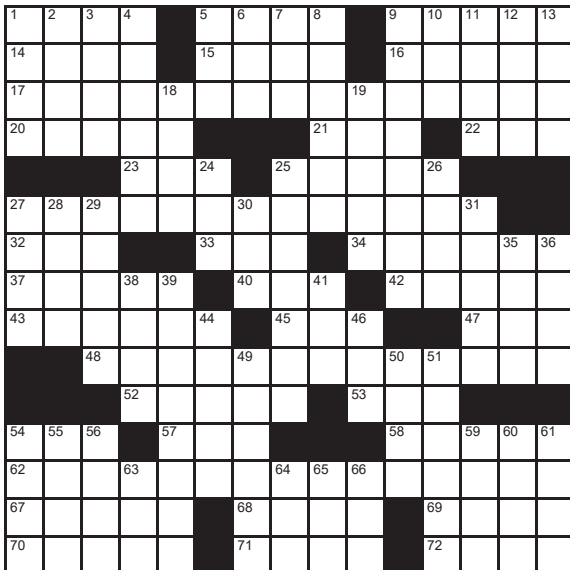
Inside the convention, the Peace Park by the Rotary Action Group for Peace has provided an oasis of contemplation. Plus, in Singapore it had a top snapshot spot among a garden of peace poles and paper flowers. Choose Calgary 21-25 June to contribute to a more peaceful world. ■

Learn more and register at convention.rotary.org.

CROSSWORD

Halloween humor

By Victor Fleming
Rotary Club of Little Rock, Arkansas



Solution on page 35

ACROSS

- 1 Hard Rock ___
- 5 Cap pistol sound
- 9 Appealingly piquant
- 14 Patron saint of Norway
- 15 Adored sort
- 16 Milo of drama
- 17 Said one skeleton to another: "I ___ with you"
- 20 Big name in toothbrushes
- 21 Sleeve contents
- 22 DVD ancestor
- 23 Despite that
- 25 ___ Gay
- 27 *The witch went to the doctor because she had a ___*
- 32 Like the hills?
- 33 "Got milk?" comeback, perhaps
- 34 Make beloved
- 37 Coral Sea formations
- 40 Auto lubricants brand
- 42 Dealt with
- 43 Region that includes Fairfax and Potomac
- 45 Bit of old cloth
- 47 Fiend or urchin
- 48 Said one invisible person to another: "___"
- 52 Lower oneself

- 53 Miss Piggy's cry
- 54 "One Year ___ — jots what?": E. Dickinson
- 57 Neither Rep. nor Dem.
- 58 Bed frame boards
- 62 *The ghost hated his job because he had to work ___*
- 67 Boca ___
- 68 Bender
- 69 007 alma mater
- 70 Opposite of "Brr!"
- 71 Easily angered
- 72 Criticisms

DOWN

- 1 Kind of salmon
- 2 Banned chemical
- 3 Bean variety
- 4 Author Waugh
- 5 Tot's mealtime neckwear
- 6 Big flap
- 7 Start to profit?
- 8 Gathers bit by bit
- 9 Camera accessory
- 10 *Ghost Whisperer* skill
- 11 Baddie's blade
- 12 "Ramblin' Wreck from Georgia ___"
- 13 Asian bovines
- 18 Help out, as a perp
- 19 Figure of speech
- 24 A Christmas Carol tyke
- 25 Bit of self-indulgence
- 26 M*A*S*H star Alan
- 27 T-Bird maker
- 28 Guinness or McCowen
- 29 Absolutely perfect
- 30 Uniform features (abbr.)
- 31 Clark's partner
- 35 "Look ___" ("Misty" directive)
- 36 Cowhand's cord
- 38 Coifs of tight curls, often
- 39 Conscious
- 41 Anti-stick product for pans
- 44 Awful feeling
- 46 Emerald or diamond
- 49 As yet
- 50 Bag of chips, maybe
- 51 More greasy
- 54 Cultural leader?
- 55 About 1/28 of an ounce
- 56 "I swear" may start it
- 59 Aqua Velva rival
- 60 'Vette roof option
- 61 Figs. with two hyphens
- 63 "Hinky Dinky Parlay ___"
- 64 Angler's need
- 65 Follow closely
- 66 Squalid digs

PHOTOGRAPH: CHRISTOPHER WONG

**Together,
we end polio**



**WORLD
POLIO DAY
24 OCTOBER**



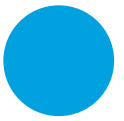
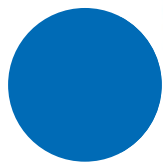
**Register your
World Polio Day event**





Register and pay by 15 December 2024
before prices increase

convention.rotary.org



**BUILDING
CONNECTIONS**



**UNLEASHING
POSSIBILITY**



**AWAKENING
INSPIRATION**



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
MAGIC ALL AROUND
21-25 JUNE 2025 • CALGARY, CANADA

