

Rotary

Thailand

โรตารีประเทศไทย

No. 224 May - June 2026

The greatest
reward is a
story that wins
the hearts of
the community



Rotary members
join the race for
vaccines to stop
malaria

Disaster Aid Thailand
A disaster relief organization
in Thailand, part of a global
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The results of the
judging: Trophy
of the Rotary Club
4 Districts

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Follow the youth

Shoki Wafula did not know what to expect when he was forced to leave his birth country of Uganda for South Africa. What he found was a Rotary community that welcomed him with warmth and friendship. That experience inspired him to help create a Rotaract e-club where young leaders from around the world could connect, develop their skills, and serve together.

Today, that community includes members across multiple continents who collaborate on leadership development, peacebuilding, and service initiatives. For Wafula, the experience reinforced the lesson that meaningful service begins with people who feel connected, valued, and empowered to lead.

His story reminds us why Youth Service Month is so important. Through Rotaract and programs like Rotary Youth Exchange, young people build leadership skills, develop global understanding, and discover the impact they can make through service.

Rotary's Action Plan calls on us to enhance participant engagement. At its heart, that goal asks a simple question: How can we ensure that participation in Rotary is meaningful and fulfilling for everyone? Youth programs and Rotaract provide a powerful answer.

When clubs mentor Rotaractors, host exchange students, or support youth leadership initiatives, they create opportunities for members to share their experience in ways that feel personal and rewarding. These connections deepen members' sense of purpose and strengthen the bonds within our Rotary family.

They also create lasting pathways into Rotary. Thousands of young people complete Rotary programs each year, and they carry those experiences with them throughout their lives. Many remain eager to stay connected.

Organizations such as Rotex International, an association of former Youth Exchange students, help Rotary program alumni continue serving as mentors, leaders, and advocates for our youth programs. As Rotex co-founder Hans Lee wrote in a recent reflection on Youth Exchange alumni, "exchange doesn't end when you return home."

When we welcome these young leaders into our clubs and activities, we strengthen the continuity of Rotary across generations.

During Youth Service Month, I hope every Rotary club reflects on how youth programs can enhance engagement for new and longtime members. Collaborate on service projects and invite youth voices into your planning and decision-making.

Rotary's message to the world is that we can Unite for Good. Youth programs show us how that happens in practice — when generations come together, share ideas, and work side by side in service.

When we invest in young people, we are not only shaping future leaders. We are building a stronger, more connected Rotary today.

Francesco Arezzo
President, Rotary International

RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

June 2026

Let's carry the momentum

As my year as president of Rotary International comes to a close, I offer my heartfelt thanks to each member of our global Rotary family. Your kindness, warmth, and dedication have changed my life.

During this year, I had the privilege of traveling across our world, from San Francisco, birthplace of the United Nations, to the innovative Rotary clubs of Nigeria. In every place, I saw Rotary members and our partners working side by side to create lasting, positive change, reminding me that our strength lies in shared purpose.

That spirit leads naturally to a simple truth: Rotary is not something we attend, but something we do. We are not spectators. We act, and through that action, we transform our communities and ourselves.

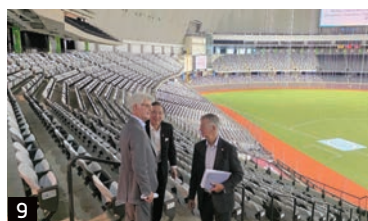
As we continue this work, we must keep our focus on building conditions for peace. Rotary is, at its core, a peace machine. But maintaining that machine requires intention, commitment, and steady effort.

That same resolve is needed now as we push toward polio eradication. The final mile is often the hardest, but we cannot falter in our promise to the children of the world.

You have shown that when we Unite for Good, there is no challenge we cannot meet if we stand together. Let us carry this momentum forward with courage, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to the safety and prosperity of all.

Francesco Arezzo

President, Rotary International



1. Rotary President Francesco Arezzo and his wife, Anna Maria Arezzo-Criscione, are welcomed by Rotarians in Nigeria during a tour of Africa.
2. Wrapping up a visit to Ethiopia, Arezzo attends a Kick Out Polio event with young soccer players.
3. Will the real Francesco please stand up? The president meets his doppelgangers in Chennai, India.
4. At a Rotary event in Chennai, Arezzo and his wife enjoy a lighthearted moment with aide John de Giorgio and his partner, Monique Chambers.
5. Planting a tree in Nigeria.

6. Arezzo cuts the ribbon on a maternal and child health project in Uganda.
7. With Rotary Youth Exchange students (and Foundation Trustee Chair Holger Knaack) in Brazil.
8. Helping launch the Pink Auto Project in Chennai with Rotary District 3234 to provide women with motorized rickshaws to secure a livelihood and economic independence.
9. Inspecting the venue for the general sessions at this month's Rotary International Convention in Taipei, Taiwan.
10. With Anna in Chennai.

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Editorial



Dear Fellow Rotarians

Over the past two years, since 1 July 2024, when my team and I assumed our roles in managing the Rotary Centre in Thailand, time has passed swiftly along with our important mission to support, facilitate, and provide services to members, clubs, and all four districts across five countries to the fullest extent.

I sincerely hope that the operations of the Rotary Centre have, in one way or another, met your needs—whether through the translation and publication of Rotary documents for club presidents, secretaries, treasurers, and various committee chairs, or through our participation in district level meetings, including district conferences and the district club leadership learning, where we offered guidance, showcased materials, and disseminated Rotary resources to ensure broad accessibility for all members.

In addition, the Rotary Centre has contributed to supporting the organization of the 2026 Pattaya Rotary Institute, with our staff serving in the Secretariat Division to help ensure smooth and efficient operations.

I am confident that the new Executive Committee of the Rotary Centre in Thailand, which will assume office on 1 July 2026, will continue this mission with dedication and remain fully committed to supporting the work of clubs in Districts 3330, 3340, 3350, and 3360.

Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to all members, every club, all four districts, as well as our advisors and committee members for the excellent cooperation throughout the past two years.

Rotary continues to move forward and evolve with the changing world, and together we will continue to ensure that the work of our clubs, districts, and Rotary as a whole achieves our shared goals in a sustainable way.

Yours in Rotary,

Niwes Khunavisarut

District Governor 3340, Rotary International, 1992–93

Chair, Executive Committee of the Rotary Centre in Thailand 2024–26

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As scientific advancements open the door to
hope, Rotary members are joining the search
for a vaccine to stop malaria.



As Rotary expands globally, maps
help members better understand
the organization's international scope.
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which showcases Rotary's history,
membership, and impact.

In a world where
natural disasters
are occurring more
frequently and
severely every day,
organizations like
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WASH PROJECT

Chiang Mai International Rotary Club

Delivering Sustainable Water, Sanitation & Hygiene in Northern Thailand

Project Highlights:

\$330,000 Global Grant	21 Villages Served	40+ Rotary Clubs	3-Year Timeframe
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- Local water committees to be established in 21 villages
- Systems designed for long-term sustainability
- International Rotary collaboration across 6 districts
- Multi-year commitment beyond installation

For more information about this project, please visit www.cmirotary.org

Inside the Cover:

"The Greatest Award: Stories that Win the Community's Heart"

By Supan Wiboonma, Zones 10B & 10C Assistant Rotary Public Image Coordinator

Following the proud success of our 2026 Zones 10B & 10C Public Image Awards, let's give a heartfelt round of applause to every club that secured a win.

To those whose entries didn't take home a trophy, please accept our deepest appreciation. Please know that your dedication remains a powerful "Echo of Impact", one that is deeply valued.

Whether it is a single photograph, a short video, or a community marker, big or small;True influence does not stem from grandeur. It comes from stories that reach the heart of those who see them.

Behind every compelling piece of work lies the fusion of 3 essential elements: A "heart" driven by purpose " Skills" sharpened by intention; and The "Teamwork" that brings it all together.

Every piece of content we create and share is, in essence....a competition against ourselves. We do not need a regional ranking to validate our work. The true value is realized the moment you transform your hard work into a story that resonates.

Let us keep sharing our stories, for our communities are listening.

"WINNER" Awards Received by Rotary Clubs in Zones 10B & 10C (2025-26)

1. Best People of Action - Winner: Rotary Club of Yannawa, D3350
2. Best Rotary Video - Winner: Rotary Club of Promthep Phuket, D3330
3. Best Rotary Online Media Using AI - Winner: Rotary Club of Singburi Veerachon, D3350
4. Best Public Image Campaign - Winner: Rotary Club of Chiang Mai International, D3360

Photo Credit: PP Thanijporn Komsan, Rotary Club of Doiprabaht





TO CATCH KILLER





Rotary members join the
race for vaccines to stop
malaria

By Ruby Prosser Scully
Photography by Rhys Martin



At first it just seemed like a bad flu.

The illness struck Danielle Stanisc while she was in New York for a research gig, her first time living away from home in Australia. It was her lab mates, though, who grew alarmed and insisted she get tested. It turned out Stanisc, who had traveled to Papua New Guinea six months earlier, had malaria.

The next week in the hospital was a blur of suffering, but looking back 20 years later, Stanisc's overriding feeling about the ordeal is how lucky she was. "I had access to rapid and effective care in a hospital," she says. "I didn't have to worry about the drugs being counterfeit. I didn't have to worry about them not having enough IV fluids. I didn't have to worry about any of that. That's not the way it is in malaria endemic countries."

Today, Stanisc is a veteran immunologist specializing in defeating parasites. Atop her hit list is the biological invader that causes malaria, a killer of around 600,000 people each year, most of them in places offering little of the luck that she had accessing care.

Malaria has bedeviled humankind for millennia. Caused by a mosquito-borne parasite, the disease has afflicted generations stretching back to the likes of Alexander the Great, believed to have been killed by the illness on the banks of the Euphrates. Traces of malaria parasites have been found, too, in mummified remnants of Tutankhamen's blood.

Today, though the disease is preventable and treatable, malaria remains a deadly and destructive force in large swaths of the world, nowhere more so than in Africa, home to 95 percent of cases and deaths. In 2024, malaria is estimated to have sickened 282 million people and killed 610,000, about 75 percent of them under the age of 5.

The disease is spread to humans through the bite of some female *Anopheles* mosquitoes. The most common symptoms are fever, headache, and chills. If left untreated, the infection can lead to severe illness with fatigue, seizures, and difficulty breathing, and may cause coma or death in as little as 24 hours from the onset of symptoms. Though malaria is not contagious or spread directly from person to person, mosquitoes feeding on an infected person's blood can pick up the parasite and spread it to other people.

In the first two decades of this century, the risk of malaria gradually dropped in affected areas, with the biggest factor by far being the adoption of preventive measures like bed nets treated with insecticides that can last three years or more and spraying interior walls with similarly long-lasting insecticide. Aided by such measures, 47 countries have been certified malaria-free by the World Health Organization, including Egypt, China, and, most recently, the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste in 2025. Antimalarial drugs also saved lives.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, however, case counts have grown again. And global cuts to aid funding could trigger a further devastat-

ing reversal of the progress. "A perfect storm of climate change, rising drug and insecticide resistance, trade disruptions, and global insecurity further undermine the efficacy of malaria interventions and threaten to reverse the hard-won progress that has been made since 2000," warns a 2025 report by the intergovernmental African Leaders Malaria Alliance and the nonprofit Malaria No More UK. Last year's round of pledges to the Global Fund partnership, which raises money to fight malaria, AIDS, and tuberculosis, produced less than the previous round, in 2022. The report's authors predict that failing to match the earlier level of funding will result in an even greater increase in the number of malaria cases and deaths.

The WHO's approval starting in 2021 of two breakthrough vaccines for malaria — the first ever against parasites — is giving hope that this dire forecast can be averted and even that the disease could be eradicated. Dozens of other possible vaccines are in the pipeline. Among them is a promising candidate being developed by Stanisc and her team in Australia.

For decades, scientists have puzzled over how to train the body's immune system to fight malaria more effectively. The parasites that cause the disease have existed for millions of years, so we have evolved together, trapped in a relentless war of biological one-upmanship. In some malaria-prone areas, for instance, gene mutations in humans changed the shape and behavior of red blood cells. One example, the sickle-cell trait, can cause red blood cells infected with the malaria parasite to self-destruct along with the invaders.

At the same time, the cunning parasite developed sophisticated ways of dodging our bodies' defenses. Malaria parasites shape-shift during their life cycle, dramatically changing forms and surface features. This is a problem for our immune system's beat cops, or antibodies, which sketch mug shots of pathogens to quickly identify them and call for



Danielle Stanisc and Michael Good, of Griffith University's Institute for Biomedicine and Glycomics, are developing a potential malaria vaccine candidate with the help of a fundraising partnership with Rotary clubs in Australia.

reinforcements if they're spotted again.

Modern vaccines, including the two malaria shots approved so far, train the immune system often with only part of a single surface protein from that pathogen. It's a safe way for antibodies to draw that wanted poster without risk of an actual infection. But malaria parasites are masters of disguise and can rapidly change themselves to evade the human immune response.

Gum trees sway lazily in the hot breeze around Griffith University's Institute for Biomedicine and Glycomics, while tourists crowd the nearby beaches on Australia's Gold Coast. It's here that Stanisc and fellow immunologist Michael Good, the project's principal researcher, are developing their potential vaccine candidate, called PlasProtecT, with the help of a fundraising partnership with Rotary clubs in Australia.

Here, in a busy lab, fridges hum and researchers peer down microscopes as they tap to count parasites. Upstairs in Good's office, the desk is piled with research papers, biology magazines, and conference programs. Behind him is a framed picture of multiple malaria parasites, an image captured by pioneers of the field in the 1800s. An award plaque lies, seemingly forgotten, on the bottom of his bookshelf.

Good has dedicated 40 years to researching malaria parasites. During an early vaccine experiment about a decade ago, his team injected him with *Plasmodium falciparum*, the deadliest species of malaria parasite. Voluntary self-experimentation has been a common practice in medical research historically, if less so currently, and Good felt it was important. "I wanted to be able say, 'Well, I'm prepared to take it. I'm not going to give you anything that I wouldn't be prepared to take myself,'" Good says.

The parasites were live but weakened in a process known as attenuation, which renders pathogens harmless while keeping them recognizable to the immune system. It's the same process used safely in vaccines for everything from chickenpox to the flu.

The parasites in this early test had not been weakened enough, and Good was soon shivering under a pile of blankets at home in bed. But like Stanisc, he was in close reach of world-class care and quickly recovered.

For decades, scientists have puzzled over how to train the body's immune system to fight malaria.

The episode sent the researchers back to the drawing board to tweak the formulation, while also providing backing for some of their broader approaches. Today, they freeze the parasites to kill — not just weaken — them, bundling the shattered components into a fatty sac with other compounds to boost the immune response. There is no risk of malaria infection from this test version. "This sucker has been killed by freezing it," Good says. "It'd be like putting a person into a tank of liquid nitrogen and pulling them out and hoping that they're going to walk away. They will not."

When a malaria parasite-infected mosquito bites a person, tiny worm-shaped parasites escape the insect's salivary glands and sneak into the skin. These forms of the parasite, known as sporozoites, burrow down into the bloodstream where they make their way to the liver within minutes or hours. There, they grow and divide for about a week, transforming into egg-shaped forms known as merozoites. When these merozoites have fully matured, about 30,000 of them burst out of the liver, ready to invade red blood cells.

The merozoites latch onto a red blood cell, drill a hole, squeeze inside, and seal the door to hide from the immune system. Once inside, the parasite begins gobbling up hemoglobin protein, dividing again and again until around two dozen copies are pressed against each other like people on a packed dance floor.

The cell walls burst, flinging new merozoites into the bloodstream. And the cycle starts again.

This is when hosts start to show symptoms. As merozoites rupture the cell walls, waste products flood the bloodstream, triggering a massive immune response with fever and chills.

Malaria's destruction of red blood cells can lead to anemia, fatigue, aches, low blood oxygen, and even organ damage. It can happen so quickly that by the time children reach the hospital they are in urgent need of a blood transfusion.

If left untreated, people can die from malaria, sometimes within just 24 to 48 hours. The most at risk are children, pregnant women, immune-compromised people, and those who have never been infected before.

The two vaccines with WHO approval currently in use, Mosquirix and R21, have been shown to reduce malaria cases in children by more than 50 percent during the first year after the initial series of three doses. (After a year, a fourth dose is recommended to prolong protection, which wanes over time.) In areas with highly seasonal transmission for a few months of the year, they prevent around 75 percent of cases when given seasonally. They're being offered to children in 25 countries in Africa alongside routine childhood immunizations with the aim of reaching more than 10 million children a year — a target that is so far at risk from limited funding.

Based on modeling, these vaccines could save the lives of an estimated half a million children by 2035 if distribution were scaled up in areas of moderate and high transmission, WHO says.

Meanwhile, more tools and vaccines are on the horizon, including Griffith University's PlasProtecT, which is on the cusp of clinical trials thanks to more than



The PlasProtect vaccine candidate being developed by Griffith University researchers can be frozen or freeze-dried into a powder without affecting its efficacy, making it easy and cost effective to transport.



AU\$3.1 million (about US\$2.2 million) raised by Rotary District 9640.

It differs from the other vaccines used in the field, including by targeting the malaria parasite after it has traveled out of the liver and entered the bloodstream. “By only having vaccines that target the liver stage of infection there’s a danger that it just takes one parasite to escape from the liver to start the blood stage of infection,” says Christian Engwerda, a cellular immunologist at the QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute in Brisbane. “In the ideal world, you’d have a vaccine that did all three things: prevented liver infection, prevented blood stage infection, and prevented transmission back to the mosquitoes.”

The PlasProtecT vaccine can also be frozen or freeze-dried into a powder without affecting its efficacy, making it easy and cost effective to transport. And it contains more than 5,000 malaria parasite proteins, offering protection against a wider range of parasite strains and species — an approach known as a whole-parasite vaccine.

Phase 1 clinical human trials for PlasProtecT are set to begin this year. Early tests of the immunization showed promising signs. “Our preclinical models show that this whole-parasite vaccine approach stimulates very good immune

responses and against different strains,” says Stanisic.

Her bout with the disease points to another need for multiple tools against malaria, including vaccines. During her trip to Papua New Guinea all those years ago, Stanisic, like many travelers, preventively took antimalarial medication, which kills malaria parasites in the bloodstream. But in her case, some of the invaders lay dormant in her liver, only emerging months later after any medication was gone — a hazard associated with two of the five malaria parasite species. “That’s why a highly effective vaccine is what we need,” she says, “something that will allow you to develop your own immunity and stop the parasite developing in the blood.”

The philanthropic and government sectors are awash with debate over which public health campaigns and tools to back with limited resources and which hold the most promise. Some governments are reducing commitments across the board. Stanisic is blunt in her assessment that scientists face what they call “valley of death” funding gaps that cause promising technologies to die.

Early on, her team turned to Rotary for

support. In 2015, Stanisic attended a conference of a group of Australian Rotary members focused on eliminating malaria and appealed for funds to buy a piece of lab equipment. Rotary members enthusiastically raised the money in a week. One of them, Sandra Doumany, immediately saw the potential for Rotary clubs to get more involved. “What that showed was the power of Rotary,” says Doumany, a member of the nearby Rotary Club of Hope Island and a past district governor. “The fact that we could respond within the week, to me, that was the power of Rotary.”

After the conference, Stanisic joined a new Rotary satellite club based at Griffith University. In 2017, she and the other Griffith researchers formally partnered with Rotary District 9640 to launch the Malaria Vaccine Project. Its goal is to raise the funds needed to keep research going through the vital Phase 1 and 2 trials, typically the point when government funding ends and industry funding is yet to start.

Doumany chairs a leadership committee for the Malaria Vaccine Project and organizes an annual black-tie fundraiser; the most recent one raised about AU\$86,000 (US\$56,000). Project members also hold golf days, boat shows, barbecues, and meetings to promote the work and find donors.

Another Rotarian helping to lead efforts is Ross Smith, an upbeat retired school principal and member of the Rotary Club of Burleigh Heads. The past district governor travels the world tirelessly drumming up support for the campaign and hardly had time to shake off the jet lag from a recent international trip before attending the latest black-tie dinner. “Malaria is the cause of the most deaths on the planet, ever,” Smith says. Still, he adds, fundraising can be a challenge when malaria predominantly affects poorer regions of the world.

For Smith, it’s far from an abstract illness. His father caught the disease several times as a prisoner of war to the Japanese during World War II in Singapore. More than half a century later,

Support for community action

World Malaria Day on 25 April is a chance for Rotary members to make a measurable impact in communities where the disease is endemic. To support those efforts, the Rotarians Against Malaria-Global Rotary Action Group invited applications for grants of \$2,500 each for projects ranging from distribution of insecticidetreated bed nets and rapid diagnostic test kits to educational programming in schools and social media campaigns. The action group received 91 applications and awarded 33 grants. “The immense creative energy in these numerous proposals reflects an interest in malaria eradication that is game-changing,” says Dan Perlman, chair of the action group. “These grant opportunities change lives, but they also change us. Rotary grounds us in service, connects us across cultures, and reminds us that progress happens when people show up with purpose and dedication.”

Learn more and get involved at ram-global.org.





Rotarians Ross Smith and Sandra Doumany have led fundraising efforts to keep the research going at the Griffith University lab.

Smith had his own experience with the parasite while spending time at a small school in Tanzania for a Rotary project. One night, an Australian woman working at the school had come down with what turned out to be malaria and needed to get to a hospital. Smith drove her. “She was sweating and bloated. She looked so unwell,” Smith remembers. On the tense drive, 5 miles in the dark over a heavily rutted road, Smith wasn’t sure she would make it. He felt helpless. After several days in the hospital, she pulled through.

Smith had always been inspired by Sir Clem Renouf, the former Rotary International president who helped start the organization’s fight against polio. And Smith’s trip to the Tanzanian hospital energized him to tackle malaria. He thinks Rotary’s progress toward polio eradication can be a good model for fighting malaria — if scientists can find the right vaccines.

Dan Perlman, chair of the Rotarians Against Malaria-Global Rotary Action Group, believes the advances in vaccines, alongside better control measures, make the eradication of malaria a real possibility. The action group supports projects that provide mosquito nets, drain stagnant water, deliver larvicides and indoor residual spray, and train community health workers to diagnose and treat uncomplicated malaria and refer more complicated cases. In countries where malaria vaccines have been introduced, community health workers are educating people about them to support vaccination campaigns.

“Vaccination is clearly the key to eradicating malaria,” says Perlman, a retired infectious disease physician who became one of the first American doctors to vaccinate an infant against malaria when he visited Uganda during its initial rollout of the vaccine last year. He highlights challenges with the first-generation vaccines, such as the need for four doses and their waning protection over time, but believes we are in the middle of a “vaccine revolution” that will see several next-generation vaccines rolled out in coming years. “I imagine that in less than a decade from now we’ll have at least three or four

“In the next 30 to 40 years there’s a high likelihood that we will eliminate malaria on Earth,”

approved vaccines for malaria: We’ll have a travel vaccine, and we’ll have a vaccine for adults,” says Perlman, a member of the Rotary Club of Carbondale, Colorado.

Rotary members recently celebrated WHO’s certification of Timor-Leste as malaria-free. They have been supporting the Southeast Asian island country and other countries in the region by distributing insecticidal nets, providing residual spraying machines and diagnostic tools, and running community education campaigns.

“In the next 30 to 40 years there’s a high likelihood that we will eliminate malaria on Earth,” says Perlman. “It really will depend on what resources, funding, and support are put into this.”

Despite progress, the road ahead is uncertain. Funding shortfalls remain a persistent challenge.

WHO had estimated that \$9.3 billion per year would be needed by 2025 to control malaria globally and meet elimination targets. But only \$3.9 billion was spent in 2024. That makes it far more difficult to meet the global target, set in 2015, of reducing malaria cases and deaths by at least 90 percent by 2030.

“Insufficient funding has led to major gaps in coverage of insecticide-treated nets, medicines, and other lifesaving tools, particularly for those most vulnerable to the disease,” WHO says. We are already seeing a rise in drug and insecticide resistance, as well as strains of malaria that aren’t detected by standard diagnostic tests.

Mosquitoes are behaving differently too. Climate change is creating new hot and wet locations for mosquitoes to spread, including the Asian mosquito species *Anopheles stephensi* that is invading Africa and thrives in urban areas. Several species of mosquito are biting outdoors and during the day, when fewer people are under the protection of a bed net. “The overall situation is really concerning,” says Eliane Pellaux-Furrer, a technical officer for malaria vaccines at WHO. “We also know that malaria is a disease that bounces back very rapidly,” she says.

Disruptions in control measures during the COVID-19 pandemic led to a resurgence in malaria, providing some clue as to what’s in store with funding cuts. While there has been a “huge demand” and uptake of the current malaria vaccines, Pellaux-Furrer says, “unfortunately, they’re not able to go at the scale that they would like to with implementation because of funding constraints.”

New and better malaria vaccines will be easier to introduce now that the breakthrough Mosquirix and R21 vaccines have developed the infrastructure and vaccine schedules, she says.

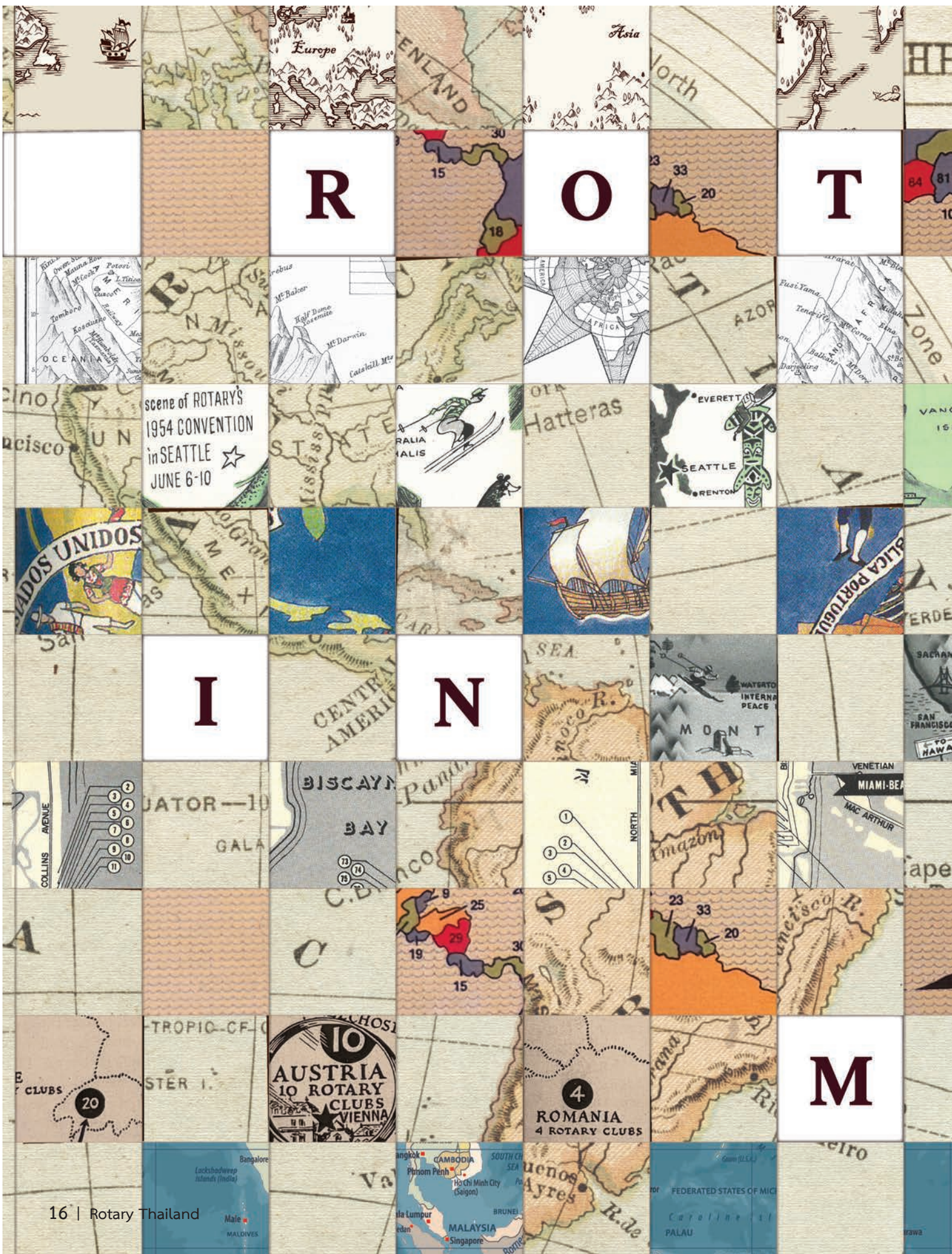
Phase 1 trials for PlasProtecT will cost around AU\$10 million, with around AU\$30 million sought for Phase 2 trials to test its efficacy in children in endemic areas. The Griffith researchers hope that data will be in by 2028 and the vaccine can be rolled out and monitored in several malaria endemic sites in the years that follow. But science is unpredictable. “You have to be headstrong,” says Stanisic. Turning to Good, she asks: “How many times have we thought we’d worked out what we have to do and then another hurdle presents itself?”

Whatever comes along, the work that they and other researchers are doing will lead to other yet unknown advancements. And Stanisic and her colleagues remain determined and dedicated. As long as the threat lingers, they have to be, she says. “Kids dying of malaria is what keeps me going.” ■



In 2017, Stanisc and her team formally partnered with Rotary District 9640 to launch the Malaria Vaccine Project with the help of Doumany and Smith, whose father caught the disease several times as a prisoner of war during World War II in Singapore.





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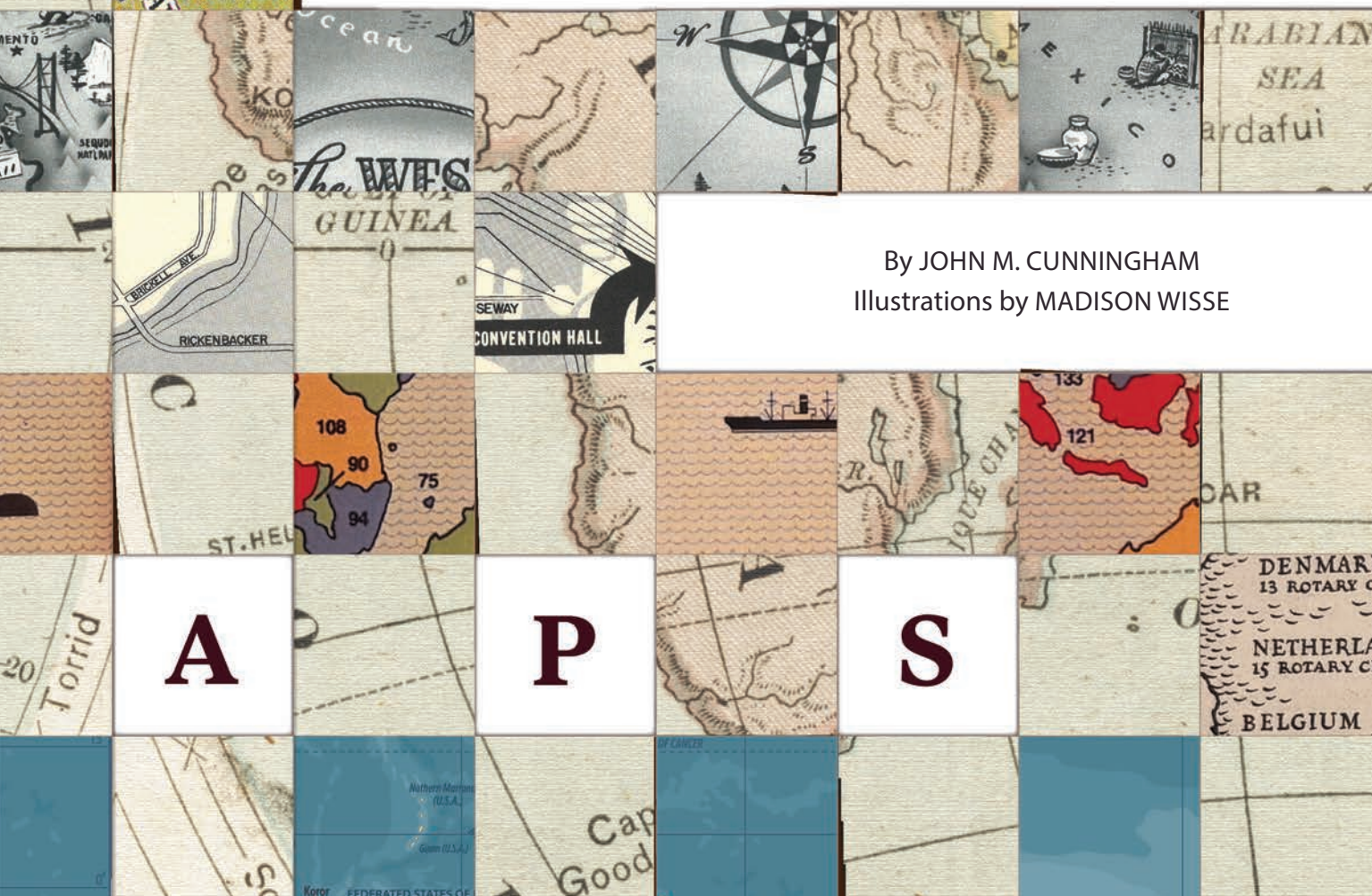
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As Rotary spread across the globe, maps helped members make sense of the organization's international scope. In that spirit, we've created a few new maps that illustrate Rotary's history, membership, and impact.



By JOHN M. CUNNINGHAM
Illustrations by MADISON WISSE

The world of Rotary



→ Convention host

Thirteen countries have hosted multiple Rotary Conventions, with the U.S. hosting the most (64).



→ RI president home

After the U.S., the countries that have produced the most RI presidents are Canada (6) and Australia (5).



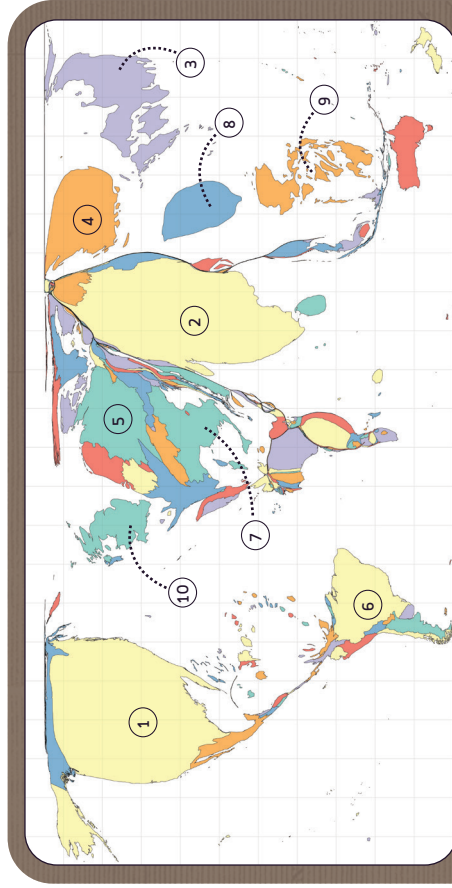
→ Rotary Peace Center

The newest of Rotary's eight peace centers opens next year at India's Symbiosis University.



→ RI office

In addition to its headquarters in Evanston, Illinois, Rotary has six international offices.

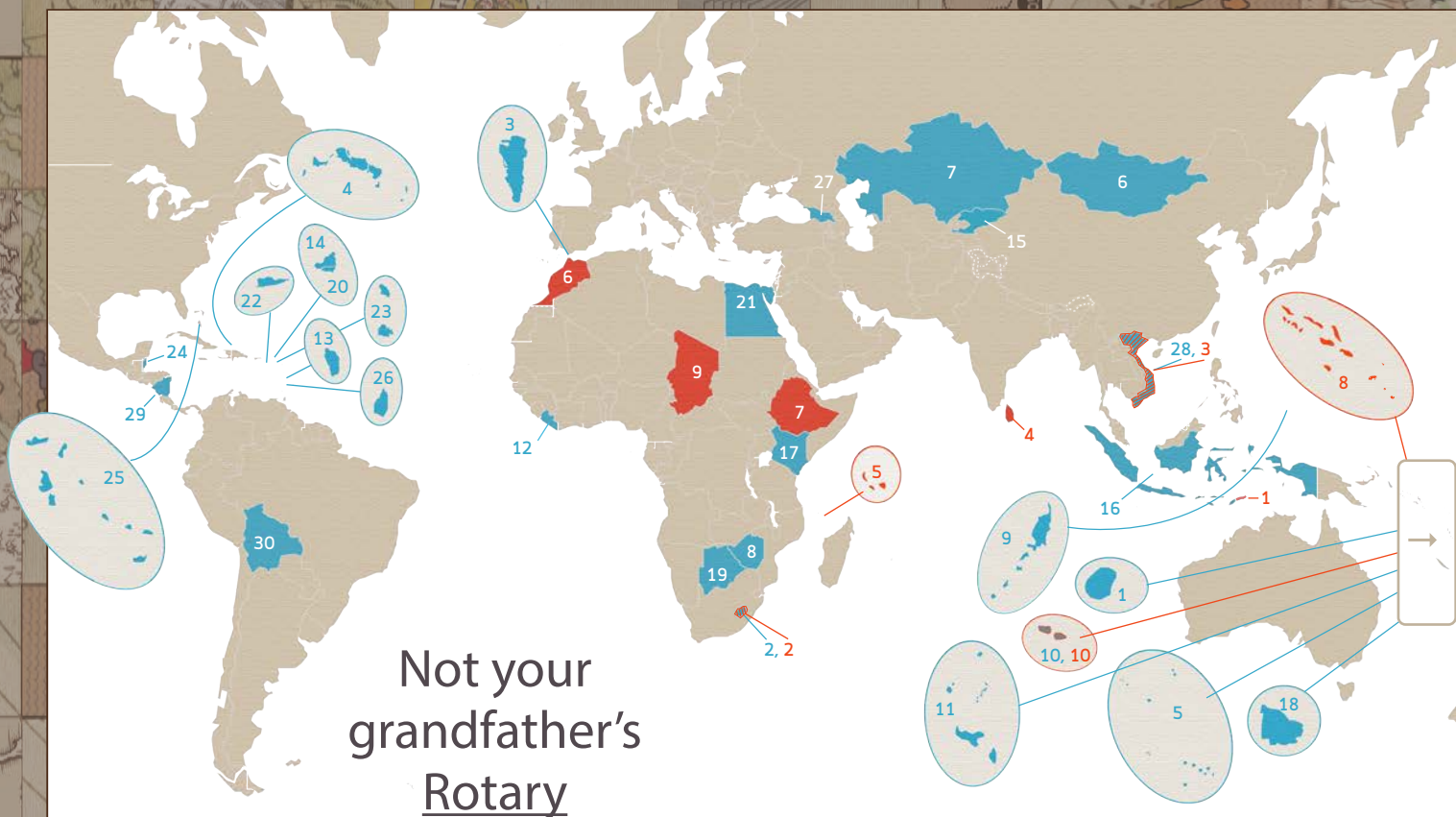


This map shows what the world would look like if the size of each country was proportional to the number of Rotary members it has. Each grid square represents about 20,000 members.

Country or geographical area (number of Rotary clubs, Rotaract clubs)

Club/member data on this and following pages is as of 28 January.

• Afghanistan (3, 0) • Åland Islands (2, 0) • Albania (22, 4) • Algeria (3, 4) • American Samoa (1, 1) • Andorra (1, 0) • Angola (3, 0) • Anguilla (1, 0) • Antigua and Barbuda (2, 1) • Argentina (549, 117) • Armenia (9, 2) • Aruba (1, 1) • Australia (930, 40) • Austria (171, 37) • Bahamas (15, 9) • Bahrain (3, 2) • Bangladesh (357, 286) • Barbados (3, 4) • Belarus (2, 1) • Belgium (271, 39) • Belize (11, 7) • Benin (32, 29) • Bermuda (3, 1) • Bhutan (1, 0) • Bolivia (72, 37) • Bonaire (1, 0) • Bosnia and Herzegovina (13, 6) • Botswana (4, 1) • Brazil (2,300, 556) • British Virgin Islands (4, 2) • Brunei (2, 0) • Bulgaria (85, 30) • Burkina Faso (12, 7) • Burundi (12, 7) • Cabo Verde (4, 1) • Cambodia (10, 3) • Cameroon (17, 3) • Canada (664, 80) • Cayman Islands (5, 1) • Chad (3, 3) • Chile (220, 14) • China (24, 1) • Colombia (135, 58) • Comoros (1, 2) • Democratic Republic of Congo (26, 18) • Republic of Congo (8, 3) • Cook Islands (2, 1) • Costa Rica (15, 7) • Côte d'Ivoire (47, 27) • Croatia (74, 21) • Curaçao (2, 1) • Cyprus (19, 7) • Czech Republic (46, 7) • Denmark (222, 8) • Djibouti (1, 0) • Dominican Republic (68, 26) • Ecuador (72, 42) • Egypt (137, 74) • El Salvador (13, 9) • England (1,163, 25) • Equatorial Guinea (2, 1) • Eritrea (1, 0) • Estonia (23, 1) • Eswatini (6, 3) • Ethiopia (18, 27) • Faroe Islands (2, 0) • Fiji (9, 2) • Finland (206, 8) • France (1,090, 100) • French Guiana (5, 1) • French Polynesia (4, 1) • Gabon (11, 8) • Gambia (5, 3) • Georgia (3, 0) • Germany (1,160, 188) • Ghana (69, 62) • Gibraltar (1, 0) • Greece (80, 8) • Grenada (2, 2) • Guadeloupe (8, 1) • Guam (5, 1) • Guatemala (30, 19) • Guernsey (3, 0) • Guinea (6, 6) • Guinea-Bissau (1, 1) • Guyana (7, 6) • Haiti (24, 18) • Honduras (32, 21) • Hong Kong (89, 50) • Hungary (57, 11) • Iceland (31, 1) • India (4,750, 2,278) • Indonesia (107, 33) • Iraq (1, 0) • Ireland (40, 1) • Israel (57, 6) • Italy (979, 447) • Jamaica (27, 14) • Japan (2,176, 292) • Jersey (2, 0) • Jordan (11, 2) • Kazakhstan (3, 1) • Kenya (123, 101) • Korea (1,592, 210) • Kosovo (24, 6) • Kyrgyzstan (1, 0) • Laos (2, 0) • Latvia (21, 2) • Lebanon (37, 26) • Lesotho (3, 8) • Liberia (6, 5) • Liechtenstein (2, 1) • Lithuania (65, 9) • Luxembourg (16, 1) • Macao (8, 4) • Madagascar (18, 11) • Malawi (9, 4) • Malaysia (142, 43) • Maldives (1, 0) • Mali (19, 20) • Malta (4, 1) • Martinique (8, 1) • Mauritania (3, 0) • Mauritius (35, 23) • Mayotte (2, 1) • Mexico (611, 238) • Micronesia (2, 0) • Moldova (8, 2) • Monaco (1, 1) • Mongolia (22, 13) • Montenegro (8, 2) • Montserrat (1, 1) • Morocco (62, 95) • Mozambique (9, 7) • Myanmar (11, 10) • Nauru (1, 0) • Namibia (8, 1) • Nepal (160, 183) • Netherlands (459, 31) • New Caledonia (3, 0) • New Zealand (192, 6) • Nicaragua (10, 6) • Niger (8, 8) • Nigeria (581, 409) • Norfolk Island (1, 0) • North Macedonia (29, 11) • Northern Ireland (26, 0) • Northern Mariana Islands (1, 1) • Norway (255, 1) • Pakistan (166, 121) • Palau (1, 0) • Palestine (West Bank) (2, 2) • Panama (18, 15) • Papua New Guinea (7, 1) • Paraguay (25, 19) • Peru (181, 80) • Philippines (977, 599) • Poland (79, 10) • Portugal (162, 43) • Puerto Rico (28, 5) • Réunion (28, 2) • Romania (146, 62) • Russia (65, 16) • Rwanda (13, 9) • St. Barthélemy (1, 0) • St. Kitts and Nevis (2, 2) • St. Lucia (3, 3) • St. Maarten (4, 0) • St. Martin (1, 0) • St. Pierre and Miquelon (1, 0) • St. Vincent and the Grenadines (2, 1) • Samoa (1, 1) • San Marino (1, 1) • Sao Tome and Principe (2, 0) • Scotland (171, 1) • Senegal (11, 7) • Serbia (60, 22) • Seychelles (2, 1) • Sierra Leone (5, 4) • Singapore (23, 13) • Slovakia (26, 6) • Slovenia (54, 17) • Solomon Islands (1, 1) • South Africa (171, 28) • South Sudan (3, 0) • Spain (249, 34) • Sri Lanka (74, 86) • Sudan (1, 0) • Suriname (4, 4) • Sweden (339, 6) • Switzerland (221, 14) • Taiwan (1,023, 156) • Tanzania (48, 23) • Thailand (339, 49) • Timor-Leste (3, 7) • Togo (19, 11) • Tonga (1, 0) • Trinidad and Tobago (23, 17) • Tunisia (35, 28) • Turkey (255, 123) • Turks and Caicos Islands (2, 2) • Uganda (230, 223) • Ukraine (85, 28) • United Arab Emirates (12, 6) • United States (6,985, 494) • U.S. Virgin Islands (11, 0) • Uruguay (102, 24) • Vanuatu (2, 0) • Venezuela (92, 57) • Vietnam (5, 3) • Wales (82, 2) • Zambia (35, 14) • Zimbabwe (25, 22)	• Kyrgyzstan (1, 0) • Laos (2, 0) • Latvia (21, 2) • Lebanon (37, 26) • Lesotho (3, 8) • Liberia (6, 5) • Liechtenstein (2, 1) • Lithuania (65, 9) • Luxembourg (16, 1) • Macao (8, 4) • Madagascar (18, 11) • Malawi (9, 4) • Malaysia (142, 43) • Maldives (1, 0) • Mali (19, 20) • Malta (4, 1) • Martinique (8, 1) • Mauritania (3, 0) • Mauritius (35, 23) • Mayotte (2, 1) • Mexico (611, 238) • Micronesia (2, 0) • Moldova (8, 2) • Monaco (1, 1) • Mongolia (22, 13) • Montenegro (8, 2) • Montserrat (1, 1) • Morocco (62, 95) • Mozambique (9, 7) • Myanmar (11, 10) • Nauru (1, 0) • Namibia (8, 1) • Nepal (160, 183) • Netherlands (459, 31) • New Caledonia (3, 0) • New 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Not your grandfather's Rotary

Where most Rotarians are women

Women as percentage of all Rotarians:

- Nauru, 100.0%
- Lesotho, 70.1%
- Gibraltar, 67.6%
- Turks and Caicos Islands, 64.7%
- Cook Islands, 60.6%
- Mongolia, 60.1%
- Kazakhstan, 60.0%
- Zimbabwe, 59.3%
- Palau, 58.3%
- Samoa, 57.9%
- Tonga, 57.1%
- Liberia, 56.8%
- Dominica, 56.7%
- St. Martin, 56.5%
- Kyrgyzstan, 56.3%
- Indonesia, 54.9%
- Kenya, 54.7%
- Norfolk Island, 54.5%
- Botswana, 54.4%
- St. Maarten, 54.3%
- Egypt, 53.6%

- U.S. Virgin Islands, 53.4%
- Antigua and Barbuda, 52.9%
- Belize, 52.9%
- Bahamas, 52.4%
- St. Lucia, 51.8%
- Georgia, 51.7%
- Vietnam, 51.0%
- Nicaragua, 50.9%
- Bolivia, 50.6%

Where most Rotary members are Rotaractors

Rotaractors as percentage of all members:

- Timor-Leste, 85.2%
- Lesotho, 70.2%
- Vietnam, 65.5%
- Sri Lanka, 64.5%
- Comoros, 61.1%
- Morocco, 56.1%
- Ethiopia, 54.7%
- Solomon Islands, 52.0%
- Chad, 51.8%
- Samoa, 51.3%

Northernmost club

Rotary Club of Longyearbyen, Norway

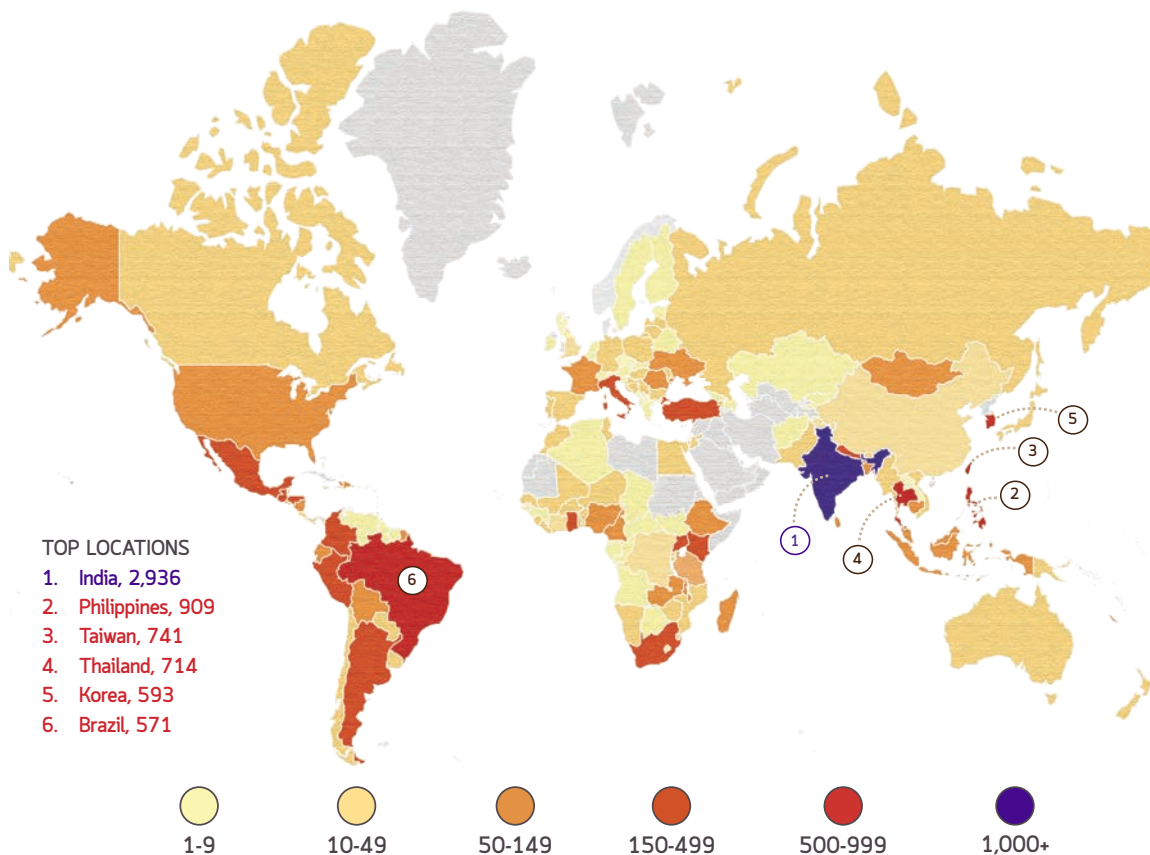
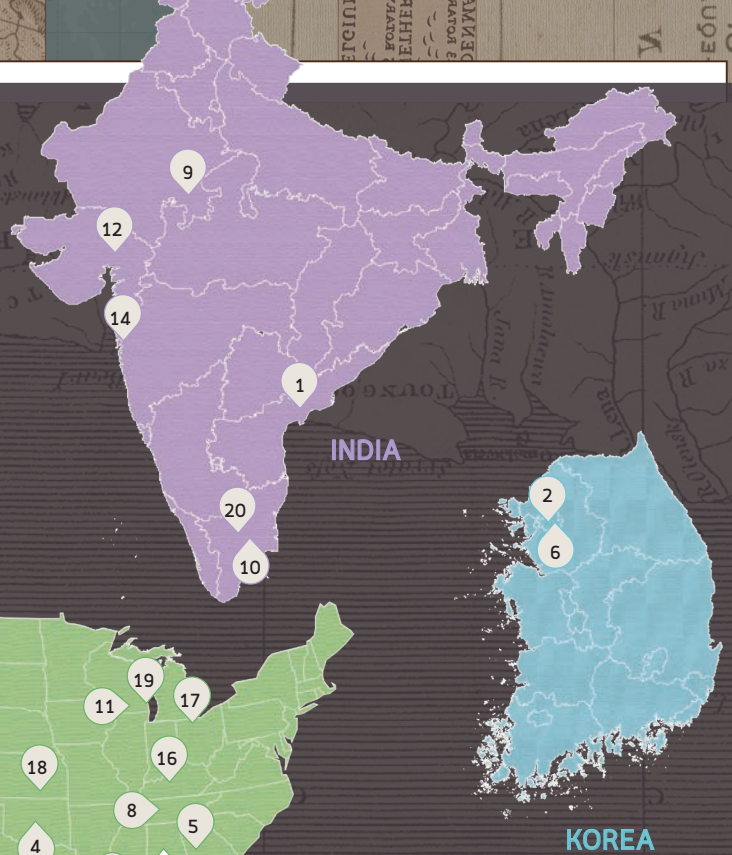
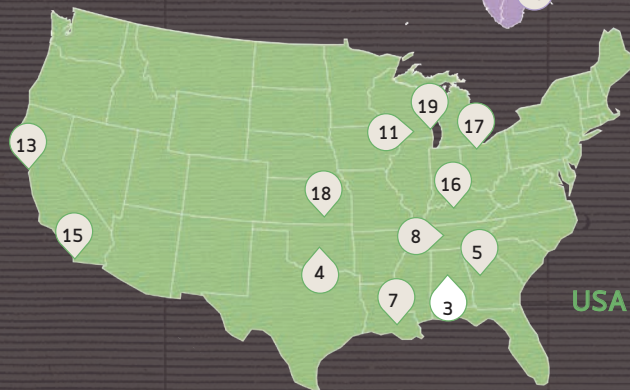


Southernmost club

Rotary Club of Puerto Williams, Chile

1. Vijayawada Midtown, 737 members
2. Seoul Gangseo, 611
3. Birmingham, 573
4. Oklahoma City, 567
5. Atlanta, 515
6. Seoul-Hansoo, 505
7. Baton Rouge, 480
8. Nashville, 476
9. Kota, 437
10. Tiruchirappalli Success, 415
11. Madison, 413
12. Ahmedabad Skyline, 400
13. San Jose, 400
14. Bombay, 394
15. San Diego, 376
16. Louisville, 370
17. Toledo, 366
18. Wichita, 360
19. Milwaukee, 359
20. Karur, 354

Largest Rotary clubs in the world



TOP LOCATIONS

1. India, 2,936
2. Philippines, 909
3. Taiwan, 741
4. Thailand, 714
5. Korea, 593
6. Brazil, 571



Global grant project locations

Number of Rotary Foundation global grants that funded humanitarian projects and/or vocational training teams in each country or area (2013-25)

Downsizing

Can tiny homes be a bridge to stability and permanent housing?

Inside a chilly warehouse, Terry Lee bends down to examine a wayward nail protruding from the side of a 2-by-6 floor joist that will soon support a tiny house. “We’ll probably need to pull that one out,” Lee says, consoling me, a volunteer who didn’t quite nail her first attempt at using a large nail gun. Lee smiles, grabs his hammer, and adds: “But that’s OK.”

The longtime Rotarian spends at least one day a week here at the Hope Factory in Seattle, walking around stacks of precut lumber and insulation as he helps volunteers like me build tiny houses for homeless people.

Outside of this use, tiny homes are best known as a movement, popularized in TV shows, that espouses minimalist living and lighter environmental footprints through small — typically under 400 square feet — dwellings, often with surprising touches of luxury. More recently, cities around the country are experimenting with tiny houses too, albeit without the frills, to see if they can provide a bridge to help people who’ve been living in tents or in their cars to get back on their feet and achieve the stability they need to find permanent housing.

The houses that I and other volunteers are building today are simple: 8 feet by 12 feet, with electricity hookups, lights, a heater, and an air conditioner. They don’t have plumbing, though each house will be moved to a tiny-house village with communal laundry, bathroom, and kitchen fa-

cilities, along with case managers to help residents access health care and other social services.

“We’ve found that tiny homes are one of the most appealing options for people coming out of homelessness. On the street, they don’t trust anyone. Their stuff is constantly stolen. With a tiny home, you have privacy, a lock on the door. It’s much more stable, with easier access to social workers,” Lee says. “The villages also help establish community and build trust, and that’s what I see as the main advantage.” The villages are part of a housing-first approach that prioritizes getting people into temporary housing and then addressing underlying issues such as financial instability, trauma, mental health needs, or substance use. Critics say the approach can leave those issues untreated for too long, but proponents say the model supports a critical first step: stability.

“Our case managers are on-site and work with residents to connect them with health care, help with employment. But the most important thing is housing navigation — to provide individuals with a home address so they can apply for IDs, social benefits, jobs, and permanent housing,” says Sharon Lee, a Seattle Rotarian (no relation to Terry) and executive director of the Low Income Housing Institute, a nonprofit that builds and operates many of the tiny-house villages in and around the city.

The number of tiny-house villages in the U.S. has grown from 34 in 2019 to over 100 in 2024, according to a

study in the *Journal of Housing and the Built Environment*. They’re located across the West Coast and are popping up in cities like Denver; St. Louis; Nashville, Tennessee; and Austin, Texas.

“These villages are not the answer on their own, and they should not replace long-term investments in affordable housing,” says Yetimoni Kpeebe, a doctoral student at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte who co-authored the study. “But they are a meaningful part of the solution for meeting immediate housing needs.”

Those needs are increasing. The unsheltered homeless population in the U.S. increased by nearly 60 percent between 2015 and 2024, according to federal data. The issue is especially pressing in Seattle and surrounding King County, which despite not cracking the 10 largest metro areas in the U.S. has the nation’s fourth-largest homeless population, behind New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago.

Experts say many factors such as poverty, mental illness, or drug use contribute, but the root cause is clear: a lack of affordable housing.

Rotary clubs are trying to help fill the gap. Terry Lee and fellow members in the Rotary Club of Mercer Island have led efforts by Seattle-area clubs to raise more than \$80,000 to help build tiny houses.

In upstate New York, Rotary clubs in Rochester and nearby Fairport have built tiny houses for homeless people. Fairport Rotarian Mark Fuer-

To learn more and get involved, visit lilihousing.org/tinyhouses.



“These villages are not the answer on their own ... but they are a meaningful part of the solution.”

Terry Lee (right) guides a volunteer assembling a tiny home. Lee and the Rotary Club of Mercer Island have led local efforts to raise more than \$80,000 to build tiny houses.

bacher says with nearly 100 percent of his club participating, members quickly built two tiny houses during the pandemic after getting approval to redirect \$3,000 in club and district funding. The project’s construction manager, Ed Johnston, a Rotarian for 50-plus years who had worked as a carpenter, used his connections to get free or steeply discounted materials. “The whole community came together,” Fuerbacher says. Johnston adds: “I’ve only seen two or three projects like this that everyone worked on together. It was just great to see.”

In Seattle, each tiny house built at the Hope Factory costs about \$4,500

thanks to volunteer labor and a discount on materials from a home improvement store. The operation is overseen by the nonprofit Sound Foundations NW, which builds as many as four tiny houses each week. Once the paint is dry, the houses are loaded onto flatbed trucks and handed over to the Low Income Housing Institute, or LIHI (pronounced “lee-high”), which partners with local governments and donors to build villages.

“Most people stay six months or less, and we tend to move the families out quicker,” says Sharon Lee, who has led LIHI for more than 30 years and is a member of the Rotary Club of Se-

attle-International District. She says LIHI has built more than 20 tiny-home villages over the last decade and secured 89 buildings for affordable rental housing since 1991.

She says it’s not cheap to operate the villages but that they’re less expensive than other shelter models, such as converting old hotels into temporary housing. LIHI staff members are on site 24/7, and case managers help the more than 2,000 people who come through the villages each year, she says.

Andrew Constantino had been living in a tent on the streets while recovering from a heroin addiction when he was

offered a tiny house about a decade ago in what was then a Seattle experiment. LIHI wanted to quickly provide shelter for people living in tents, and the 96-square-foot tiny house was a way to abide by various building and zoning codes.

"I got a tiny house, oh my God, having just spent a winter in a tent. I was trying to work. My phone was frozen in ice. I had to shave. You spend most of your time figuring out where to

shower, where to do laundry," he says. "Having a bed to sleep in, a lock on the door to keep my things safe, having heat in my home — I was overjoyed. You had to drag me out of there."

Constantino says he spent a couple of years in the village before moving into permanent housing. Sober for 18 years, he now works as an outreach specialist for an organization that helps people struggling on the street. "In large shelters, there isn't any kind of community. People see each other as

an inconvenience," he says. "In a village, they see each other as a community; you make dinner for each other. That doesn't show up in the data, but those intangibles make the villages special."

— ERIN GARTNER

Volunteers, including from the Mercer Island club, build a tiny-house village in Seattle in 2018. Most residents are able to move to more permanent housing within six months.



BY THE NUMBERS

<400 sq.ft.

Size of a typical tiny home

100+

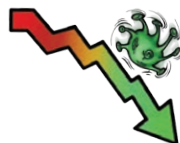
Tiny home villages in the U.S.

58%

Increase in U.S. unsheltered homeless population (2015-24)

short takes

The world saw 44 confirmed cases of wild poliovirus (31 in Pakistan and 13 in Afghanistan) in 2025, a 56 percent decrease from 2024.



On 31 December, Rotary and the Institute for Economics and Peace successfully concluded a seven-year partnership that advanced Rotary's commitment to Positive Peace.

The Rotary Foundation raised over \$2.7 million in support of Giving Tuesday, which fell on 2 December.

At the International Assembly in January, Trustee Chair-elect Jennifer Jones declared that The Rotary Foundation's 2026-27 fundraising goal is \$500 million.

Rotary will mark World Immunization Week, 24-30 April, to promote vaccines and disease prevention.



PHOTOGRAPH: ALYCE HENSON



GOODWILL

A ticket to flexibility

Passport clubs keep people in Rotary without weekly meetings over a meal

Marco Cecala and Rebecca Wilks had been Rotary members for years when the couple moved to Yarnell, Arizona, in 2019. Suddenly, they were more than 25 miles from the nearest Rotary club. “We were wondering what to do,” Cecala recalls.

Eventually, they stumbled upon the Rotary Club of Valley of the Sun Passport, a reinvention of a traditional club based in a Phoenix suburb. The club meets online only once per month, and its board meets monthly as well. Intrigued, Cecala and Wilks tried it out and found their new Rotary home.

Rotary’s Guide to Passport Clubs explains that this type of club gives members a more flexible experience by encouraging them to regularly visit other clubs, which is where the “passport” part of the name comes from. Passport clubs can relax the attendance policy or offer a variety of meeting formats.

As Cecala and Wilks set out

recruiting members, they discovered the passport format was ideal for people who were on the verge of leaving Rotary. “We talked to friends of ours who were former district governors and current presidents and said, ‘Look, if you’ve got somebody who’s teetering, send them to us,’” Cecala recalls. “We’ll talk to them and show them this is an alternative.”

Members of passport clubs often engage with people from other clubs whose interests match their own. “Many of us go to places and see projects we have supported for years,” Cecala says. “As a passport club, we are ambassadors for passion projects and creative ways to fund them.”

The Rotary Club of Otautahi Passport in New Zealand began intentionally as a passport club at a time when COVID-19 restrictions were in place, and the group held its first meetings virtually. Like the Valley of the Sun passport club, the group grew as members found other

BENEFITS OF A PASSPORT CLUB

FLEXIBILITY: Varied options for getting involved accommodate members’ busy schedules, allowing them more choices for fitting Rotary into their lives.

ENGAGING MEETINGS: Gatherings can focus on service and socializing rather than speakers and meals. By visiting other clubs’ meetings, members can learn what other groups are doing and bring new ideas to their club.

BROAD APPEAL: Passport clubs often appeal to people who wouldn’t join a more traditional club and help keep people who might otherwise leave Rotary.

MORE CONNECTIONS: Members quickly build relationships across the district and beyond.

AFFORDABILITY: Costs are kept to a minimum because meetings don’t include meals.

individuals who had either recently left Rotary or were unhappy in their clubs.

“Our model is very flexible. If something isn’t working, with club members’ input, we change it,” says Deb Gimblett, charter president of the New Zealand club. “Our meetings are less time-consuming. Members are encouraged to do what they can.”

The club meets every other week at varied locations throughout the Canterbury region. There are no meals to pay for, although when the club meets at a local McDonalds, members can grab a burger or fries if they want. “We don’t expect people to come to every meeting,” notes Club President Martin MacLean. “Sometimes we’ll have a meeting as part of an event, like a project. We might take half an hour at the beginning for a formal meeting and then go into our service.”

The Frederiksberg-Falconer Passport club near Copenhagen, Denmark, began as a traditional club but transitioned to the passport form in 2023, as the club and others in its district were experiencing a decline in membership. Club member Maiken Hallingskov, the district’s membership chair, says a workshop with members of clubs in the Copenhagen area determined most wanted to stay in Rotary but weekly meetings had become too much.

The passport club has grown from 14 to 22 members, largely from active promotion on the LinkedIn networking site. Hallingskov says the limited time commitment is the major selling point.

“People want to keep it easy, and they want to do a special thing for the local community or someone else,” says Hallingskov. “We are all very active, have our own companies, and don’t have much time. Two hours a month is enough for us to get it done.”

— ARNOLD R. GRAHL

People of action around the globe

By Brad Webber

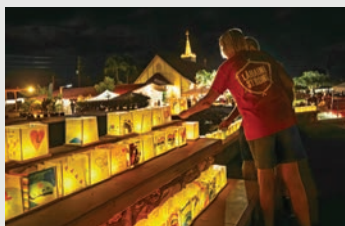
United States

The deadliest U.S. wildfire in a century killed more than 100 people and destroyed thousands of homes and businesses on the Hawaiian island of Maui in August 2023. Searching for healing and reflection, the community group Aloha Amplified organized a twilight walk and ceremony this past September, supported by District 5000's fire relief fund and the three Rotary clubs in Lahaina. Hundreds of people carried lanterns along a milelong route, joining together at the end in the revered song "Hawai'i Aloha." The event featured cultural entertainment and booths staffed by local groups, including Rotary clubs. Rotarians, many of whom lost their own homes and businesses, also volunteered at the event. "People know Rotary in Lahaina," says Joanne Laird, of the Rotary Club of Lahaina Sunset.



5,000

Maui residents
displaced by 2023
wildfires



Costa Rica

Lush rainforests and world-renowned birding help draw hundreds of thousands of travelers to Costa Rica every year. That backdrop belies many needs, including for children in the country. Stéphane Dähler, a Swiss expatriate who works in the tourism industry, reports his Rotary Club of Belén, northwest of the capital of San José, is committed to improving education and health outcomes. In February, members worked at the Español School to assemble, sand, and paint 112 desks funded by the club, District 4240 in Costa Rica, and Rotarians from District 5280 in California. The following month, Belén Rotarians visited the Santiago Alpizar School to drop off books. To help fill gaps in health care, the club held a medical camp in rural Puriscal in December to offer blood screenings and a toy distribution. The club "has become a bridge that unites Costa Rican industry with the common good, showing that the private sector and volunteers can generate a positive and sustainable effect," Dähler says.



900+

Bird species
in Costa Rica

Italy

The Rotary Club of Monfalcone-Grado revels in the history and charm of its northern Italian region, located northeast of Venice near the Slovenian border. A recent project helped ensure that information is accessible to everyone, including people with visual impairments. In December, members unveiled a multisensory panel explaining the story of the Church of San Proto in San Canzian d'Isonzo, just west of their community. The 15th century chapel sits atop foundations dating to the fourth century. The panel combines educational content

with tactile elements and Braille notations, with a placement designed for easy access by wheelchair users. "The church is located along an ancient Roman road and represents an important example of what we often call 'minor heritage,' meaning small sites with great historical and cultural value that deserve to be known and protected," says club member Paolo Messina. Rotary members participated in every phase of the project, says Messina, "from concept and design to approvals and installation."

79%

Italians who are Catholic



Rotary
Club of Monfalcone-Grado

Tunisia

When Yassine Harzallah was alerted to overcrowding in a primary school, he paid a visit and witnessed children studying on the floor and in corridors, with their notebooks on their knees. He snapped a photo, and "that image alone was enough to convince every member of our club that we had a responsibility to act," says Harzallah, president of the Rotary Club of Ruspina Monastir. In December, the entire contingent visited the school, an hour drive from the club's base in Monastir city. Members brought supplies, including hygiene products, cleaning items, a printer, a wheelbarrow, shovels, and hoes. A member architect drafted blueprints and watched over a local contractor who assembled a modular room off-site at a reduced cost. In January the structure, a new reading room, was delivered.

Rotary
Club of Ruspina Monastir

30,000+

Book titles presented at 2025 Tunis City Book Fair



Australia

Family violence is a major health and social issue in Australia, according to the national Institute of Health and Welfare. Rotary Safe Families focuses on reducing the stigma around recognizing the problem. This year the project, which was founded in 2018 and has a presence in 48 countries, is preparing to enlist Rotary clubs to sponsor a local school through a program called Towards Respectful Relationships. It fosters "safe spaces for kids to talk about family violence and respect," says program founder Dorothy Gilmour, a member of the Rotary Club of Hawthorn. "It has been a long, bumpy road to get Australians to discuss the taboo topic of family violence." More recently, though, "I have noticed that family violence is becoming less taboo."

Rotary
Club of Hawthorn

1 in 4

Australian women who have experienced violence by an intimate partner



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 & BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
- 4) Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

ROTARIAN CODE OF CONDUCT

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.



Trustee message

May 2026

A shot at the future

Our largest program at The Rotary Foundation is PolioPlus, followed by a significant new initiative called the Rotary Healthy Communities Challenge, which emerged from the first Programs of Scale initiative in Zambia. Through this work, we are combating malaria, pneumonia, and diarrheal diseases — the three leading killers of children under 5 in Africa.

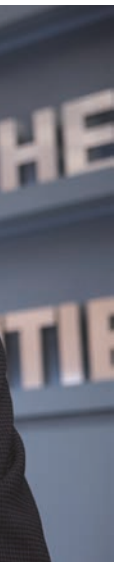
A healthy child still needs an education, and education is where futures are built.

Rotary is finding ways to invest in the next generation through partnerships and creative approaches. Johan Denolf, of the Rotary Club Damme, Belgium, and Nirmal Rijal, of the Rotary Club of Kathmandu Mid-Town, Nepal, share one remarkable example:

In the mountains of Nepal, the children of Melamchi Ghyang village had no school. In 1985, a teacher named Purna Gautam set out to change that, founding a school on the promise that no child would ever be turned away. For many girls and boys, it became a lifeline against threats such as child labor, early marriage, and human trafficking.

In 1999, Hilde Kuypers, a Belgian humanitarian, was so moved by Gautam's mission that she founded KetaKeti, a nonprofit, to support it. KetaKeti and the Rotary Club of Damme built a partnership while the club helped the community recover from a 2015 earthquake.

In 2024, the Rotary Club of Damme — working with the Rotary Club of Kathmandu Mid-Town and 15 clubs from Belgium and Germany, with



support from District 2130 — united around a \$175,000 global grant.

The project brought solar energy to the school, eliminated dependence on firewood for cooking, powered a medical post, and launched reforestation and environmental education.

By 2025, enrollment had climbed to 440 students. Rotary clubs committed to three years of teacher salary contributions. By 2027, the school aims to be self-sustaining through an alumni fund, matched dollar-for-dollar by KetaKeti Belgium. What began as one teacher's

promise has become a story of global friendship and the power of education.

Through a Rotary Foundation global grant, hundreds of Nepalese children now have a genuine shot at the future they deserve. Most remarkable of all: The school's own alumni are now helping secure that future for the next generation. That is the sustainable, generational impact Rotary endeavors to create.

There are countless such stories waiting to happen. With your commitment and The Rotary Foundation behind you, you can be part of one ■

June 2026

For the common good

Nearly a year ago, I wrote my first message to you as Rotary Foundation trustee chair, encouraging you and all our members to take a fresh look at the Foundation and its unique way of making the world better.

In the months that followed, I invited Rotary members from around the world to share their own stories about projects they have led with Foundation support. They described the impact they witnessed firsthand and how thousands of lives have been transformed.

Now that you have heard about so many successful projects and the wonderful members and dedicated staff who make them happen, I ask that you, too, become part of this success story.

Your donation to The Rotary Foundation already makes a difference. However, I would like to take it a step further and encourage you to think bigger: Consider making a targeted investment in the area most important to you.

Each of us has a particular passion. Yet we all share something in common: We want people around the world to be better off. In Rotary, your dreams of a better world can become reality with the help of The Rotary Foundation. Because Rotarians don't just dream — they put their dreams into action. And these actions make a real and lasting difference in so many lives.

With your investment in polio vaccinations, you work to ensure that no child will ever contract polio again. With your investment in Rotary Peace Centers, you contribute to world

peace. By investing in our Annual Fund, you ensure that effective projects will continue to be sustainably funded.

Not every contribution to the Foundation needs to be large. Every gift helps us achieve the lasting impact you have read about this year. The world needs Rotary more than ever. It needs our courage, optimism, and commitment to the common good. This is why we need you.

We have a variety of areas of focus in Rotary. Whether you choose to support maternal health in Nigeria, literacy programs in Belize, economic empowerment in communities recovering from hardship, or freshwater protection projects, your investment will create a lasting, measurable impact. Giving to the Foundation is about so much more than funding projects. It's a way to show compassion and empathy for others. As I have said many times before — and believe more now than ever — everything we do opens an opportunity for someone, somewhere.

I am grateful for this opportunity to serve ■

HOLGER KNAACK

Foundation trustee chair

Disaster Aid Thailand



PP Dr. Peerasan Wongsri
Rotary Club of Jomtien-Pattaya

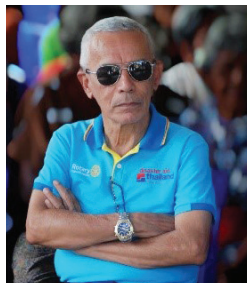
Restoring Hope Through Clean Water and Humanitarian Action

In every disaster, there comes a moment when chaos gives way to silence. Floodwater may still be rising, the earth may still be trembling, and roads may be entirely cut off. Families are suddenly left without shelter, food, or safe drinking water. In that heavy silence, one truth becomes unmistakably clear. Recovery cannot begin until the most basic human needs are restored. It is exactly in that pivotal moment that Disaster Aid Thailand finds its purpose.

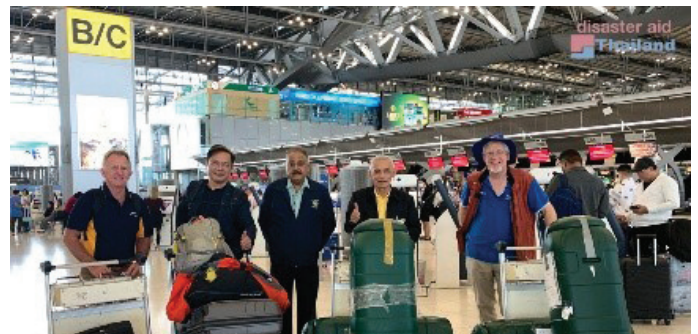
A Thai Organization Within a Global Humanitarian Network

Founded in 2023 with the vital support of the Rotary Club of Plutaluang and the Rotary Club of Jomtien-Pattaya, Disaster Aid Thailand was established as a rapid response platform. It is engineered to address floods, earthquakes, refugee crises, and evolving humanitarian challenges across Thailand and its neighboring regions. Today, the organization is driven by a network of dedicated volunteers, Rotarians, and international partners led by Chairman Capt. Dol Adinan, Vice Chairman & Secretary Dr. Peerasan Wongsri

Disaster Aid Thailand is a proud member of the Disaster Aid International alliance, which is a Rotary inspired global network of autonomous country partners operating across Australia, the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Malaysia, Nepal, and beyond. This dual identity enables the organization to respond with deep cultural understanding backed by global expertise, meaning they are local in presence yet global in connection.



Capt. Dol Adinan
Chairman



Disaster Aid Thailand and Australia teams traveling together at Suvarnabhumi Airport



Warm welcome from Rotary Club of Yala & Rotary Club of Narathiwat at the airport

Sky Hydrant as the Foundation of Recovery

At the absolute heart of Disaster Aid Thailand's mission lies one essential element, which is clean water. The organization utilizes the Sky Hydrant water filtration system; an innovative technology developed in Australia. These highly efficient systems can produce approximately 500 to 1,000 liters of clean water per hour, making them ideal for schools, evacuation centers; and remote, disaster affected communities.

The key advantages of the Sky Hydrant system are numerous. It purifies water beautifully without needing chemical treatments, and it offers incredible operational ease, making it simple to maintain in high stress environments. Furthermore, it is designed to function reliably in off grid, isolated areas, and it seamlessly transitions from immediate emergency relief to long term recovery. With access to clean water, a powerful domino effect occurs where children can safely return to school, families regain economic stability, and entire communities can begin to rebuild.

On the Ground Response Across Thailand

Disaster Aid Thailand actively deploys to regions hit hardest by natural disasters, particularly severe, climate driven floods. In Narathiwat, when severe flooding isolated communities and cut off drinking water, the team responded by distributing emergency relief supplies, installing Sky Hydrant systems, and setting up temporary shelters. In Yala, in the wake of heavy rains and widespread displacement, the organization mobilized to distribute food and essential supplies, ensure clean water access, and coordinate logistics with local authorities. Meanwhile, in Chiang Rai, communities faced severe northern flooding and economic disruption. Disaster Aid Thailand supported food and water distribution, deployed filtration systems, and focused heavily on restoring schools so children could resume their education.

Food Security and Cross Border Action

Beyond water, food security remains a critical and immediate priority. Through its Rice Against Hunger initiative, Disaster Aid Thailand has distributed over 50 tons of rice across Thailand and Myanmar. This massive effort ensures that affected families do not just survive the day, but retain the physical strength required to rebuild their lives. Following the devastating 2025 earthquake in Myanmar, Disaster Aid Thailand rapidly expanded its mission beyond national borders. Working alongside Safe Water for Every Child and more than 10 Rotary clubs in Myanmar, the organization delivered comprehensive relief. They deployed clean water systems and emergency food supplies, while also funding the construction of new school facilities. To ensure a sustainable future, they installed Sky Hydrant systems at these schools, securing a continuous supply of safe drinking water for both students and the surrounding villages.

Beyond Relief and Building Sustainable Resilience

Disaster Aid Thailand does not view disasters as isolated events. Instead, it understands them as interconnected systemic challenges where displacement leads to hunger, hunger leads to vulnerability, and a lack of clean water leads to long term health risks. To break this cycle, the organization integrates four vital components into a unified recovery framework, combining water, food, shelter, and education. This



Clean water launched for officials and the public



Emergency installation in water shortage areas



Delivering aid to affected areas

holistic approach marks the crucial difference between short term charity and long-term community resilience. Guided by the foundational Rotary principle of Service Above Self, the organization leverages global logistical support and trusted partnerships to turn humanitarian values into effective, transparent action.



Directly delivered to earthquake-affected areas in Myanmar



Building a school in Mandalay

An Invitation to Serve and Create Hope.

In a world where natural disasters are becoming increasingly frequent and severe, organizations like Disaster Aid Thailand are no longer just helpful, they are essential. Hope does not return to a devastated community on its own, it is carried there by people. It is brought by those who deliver food, install water filters, rebuild schools, and stand beside families in their darkest hours. Disaster Aid Thailand warmly invites new members, volunteers, and corporate partners to join this mission. In a world of increasing uncertainty, your involvement could become the exact moment hope begins for someone in need. We welcome you to join us as we restore lives and build a more resilient future together ■

Translated by PP Naiyana Khomson, RC.Doiprabaht, D3360.

In late 2018, the Rotary Club of Miyazaki Minami, District 2730, Japan, expressed its desire to implement a global grant project in Chiang Mai province. The club requested Ms. Midori Ishige, a representative of the Thai-Japanese Association for Health and Welfare Support, to help identify a Rotary club in Chiang Mai that could serve as a local partner. At the same time, the Rotary Club of Hasuda, District 2770, Japan - a sister club of Rotary Club of Miyazaki Minami - recommended Mae Tuen subdistrict in Omkoi District as a potential project site. The proposal was subsequently introduced to the Rotary Club of Chiang Mai North, which had two Japanese members at the time. After conducting a community assessment, club members discovered a severe shortage of nurses in the area. Rather than focusing solely on medical equipment or infrastructure, they decided to invest in people by establishing a nursing scholarship program. The goal was to support local students in obtaining nursing degrees and returning to serve their communities for at least four years after graduation. The club worked closely with local schools to identify suitable candidates. Applicants underwent interviews conducted by a committee of Rotarians to ensure both academic potential and commitment to community service. The first scholarship recipient, selected in 2019, was Ms. Aimvalee Hanmong. Later, the project was restructured as a district grant initiative, utilizing District Designated Funds (DDF) contributed by participating clubs.

In 2022, another promising student, Ms. Suwimon Yosyingapiram, successfully passed the entrance examination

for nursing college. Despite her academic achievement, financial constraints threatened her ability to continue her education. After discussions with Ms. Ampai Maneewan, Principal of Ban Khun Mae Tuen Noi School in Omkoi district, the Rotary Club established another scholarship under the same condition: recipients would return to serve at the local community hospital after graduation. Ms. Suwimon became the second nursing scholarship recipient supported through the District Grant program. Today, she is proudly serving at Mae Tuen Hospital, fulfilling the commitment she made to her community. This project has been supported by the Rotary Club of Miyazaki Minami, the Rotary Club of Hasuda, the Rotary Club of Chiang Mai North, the Thai-Japanese Association for Health and Welfare Support, and personal donations from PP Toshiki Kawashita.

Ms. Ampai Maneewan reflected on the significance of the program: "These children have very limited financial resources, so a scholarship provides them with a life-changing opportunity. Human resources are the most valuable resource of all. We can purchase equipment with money, but ultimately, people are needed to use and sustain those resources."

PP Toshiki Kawashita shared: "I was deeply inspired to continue supporting this project after meeting Ms. Ampai. I developed a strong trust in her dedication and wanted to help realize her vision for her students. Most importantly, her belief in selfless service aligns perfectly with Rotary's motto, 'Service Above Self.' ■

Nursing Scholarship Project for Omkoi Communities

By Rotary Club of Chiang Mai North



I would like to sincerely thank Rotary for giving me the opportunity to share one of the proudest experiences of my life, the opportunity to receive a scholarship and continuous support that enabled me to complete my nursing education.

Since childhood, I dreamed of becoming a nurse because I wanted to help people facing health challenges, especially those living in remote villages nearly 300 kilometers from Chiang Mai city. I worked hard in the science-mathematics program to prepare for admission to nursing school. However, academic preparation was not my only challenge. Financial hardship was an even greater obstacle. As the eldest of four siblings close in age, I knew my family could not afford higher education for all of us. When I passed the first round of nursing school admission and later succeeded in the interview process, I was overjoyed. Yet concerns about finances remained. My family told me that without a scholarship, I might not be able to pursue nursing at all. Then came a life-changing opportunity. Through my school, the Rotary Club offered a nursing scholarship, the first opportunity of its kind available to me. I was honored to be selected. After graduation, I was unable to begin work at Mae Tuen Hospital immediately because the hospital was not yet ready to expand its staffing. Instead, I began my nursing career in the pediatric department at Lanna Hospital in Chiang Mai.

Today, I have nearly completed three years of service in pediatric nursing. I continue to learn and grow professionally while waiting for the opportunity to return to my community hospital, fulfilling the promise I made to my scholarship sponsors and serving the people I have always hoped to help.

Ms. Aimvalee Hanmong



I grew up in a Karen ethnic community in the mountains, where economic hardship often limited educational opportunities. Yet from a young age, one dream remained clear in my mind: I wanted to become a nurse. At first, I simply understood nursing as a profession dedicated to helping others.

By the time on high school, that dream became a firm determination. I devoted myself to my studies and was eventually accepted into a nursing program. However, tuition and educational expenses were beyond my family's means. At a time when I was close to giving up on my dream, I was introduced to Rotary. Rotary not only enabled me to continue my education, it transformed the course of my life.

The nursing profession is demanding. It involves long hours, heavy responsibilities, and situations that often require quick and critical decisions. Yet it is also deeply rewarding. A patient's smile, a simple word of thanks, or seeing someone recover from illness provides the motivation to continue serving. Throughout this journey, I have learned that determination and opportunity must go hand in hand. Dreams alone are not enough without effort. Likewise, opportunities can be lost if they are not valued and nurtured.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Rotary, an organization dedicated to serving others and creating opportunities for those in need. I am especially thankful to every Rotarian who believed in me and helped make my dream a reality.

Ms. Suwimon Yosyingapiram

Translated by PP Naiyana Khomson, RC.Doiprabaht, D3360.

National Honorary Rotary Club Awards Districts 3330, 3340, 3350, and 3360



Krommamuean Narathippongpraphan's Trophy
For the highest net membership growth

—♦—
Congratulations to
the Rotary Club of Pattaya (D3340)
for achieving the highest net membership
growth with 34 new members.



Phra Kamphaengphet Akkarorhin's Trophy
For the highest club attendance

—♦—
Congratulations to
the Rotary Club of Nakornpathom (D3330)
for achieving an outstanding
100% attendance record.



Phraya Srivisarwaja's Trophy
For outstanding service project of the year

—♦—
Congratulations to the following clubs
for receiving this prestigious award:
Rotary Club of Ratchaburi (D3330)
Rotary Club of Chanthaburi (D3340)
Rotary Club of Suan Luang (D3350)
Rotary Club of Chiang Mai (D3360)
(Joint recipients of the award)

Rotary Club of Ratchaburi (District 3330) - "New Generation, United in Blood Donation through Service"



Rotary Club of Ratchaburi partnered with the Ratchaburi provincial Red Cross Chapter to assess blood demand within the community while conducting public awareness campaigns highlighting the importance of blood donation. Club leaders visited educational institutions to inspire young people to participate in this life-saving service initiative.

The club also collaborated with Rotary, Rotaract, and Interact clubs to establish a Blood Donor Center, coordinating mobile blood donation units, organizing educational programs, and promoting the campaign through online media on a continuous basis.

As a result, during Rotary Year 2025–26, the project attracted 3,819 blood donors, including 2,870 donors aged 25 years or younger, collecting a total of 1,305,450 cc of blood. In addition, 31 individuals pledged to donate their eyes, while 31 others registered as organ donors.

Beyond helping alleviate blood shortages, the project has cultivated a spirit of generosity among young people, inspiring them to transform from receivers into givers, embracing Rotary's spirit of Service Above Self ■

Rotary Club of Chantaboon (District 3340) - "Chantaboon Connection: Borderless Community Service"



Under the leadership of P Ake Phonmak, the Rotary Club of Chantaboon responded immediately to the conflict along the Thai–Cambodian border by suspending its regular activities and mobilizing support in collaboration with government agencies, private organizations, and local residents. The club coordinated fundraising efforts and collected relief supplies to assist military personnel and civilians affected by the conflict, extending assistance beyond Chanthaburi province.

The club also established temporary evacuation shelters for bedridden patients, elderly persons, people with disabilities, women, and children until

conditions became safe. Furthermore, it supported the construction of border roads between Chanthaburi and Cambodia to improve evacuation routes and facilitate the transportation of patients and injured persons in the event of future emergencies.

Later, when severe flooding struck Hat Yai, the project expanded its humanitarian response by dispatching five ten-wheel trucks carrying relief supplies from Chanthaburi to Songkhla. The club established community kitchens and deployed heavy machinery to remove post-flood debris, enabling affected residents to return home and resume their livelihoods ■

Rotary Club of Suan Luang (District 3350) - "Rapid Mental Arithmetic through Vedic Mathematics"



The project was launched in 2021 to address Thailand's declining PISA mathematics performance by introducing the Vedic Mathematics system—an Indian approach to mental calculation renowned for its speed and accuracy—as an innovative learning tool.

Broad Educational Impact: The project has trained more than 3,046 teachers from 32 provinces across Thailand, ultimately benefiting over 208,000 students nationwide.

The Power of Rotary Collaboration: Serving as the central coordinating initiative, the project has united Rotary clubs across Districts 3330, 3340, 3350, and 3360 through a network of more than 30 Rotary clubs, reducing operational costs while expanding educational opportunities to remote communities.

National Sustainability: The project's greatest achievement came in 2026, when the Office of the Basic Education Commission (OBEC) officially incorporated Vedic Mathematics into its national Master Teacher Development Program, enabling the methodology to be disseminated to more than 30,000 schools throughout Thailand.

Project Value: The initiative helps address the shortage of qualified mathematics teachers while strengthening logical thinking skills that form an essential foundation for future studies in engineering, technology, and artificial intelligence (AI). The project stands as an outstanding example of sustainable development—initiated by civil society and successfully adopted and expanded by the public sector ■

Rotary Club of Chiang Mai (District 3360) - "Cement-Core Check Dam Project"



This global grant project involved the construction of three cement-core check dams in Pa Miang subdistrict Municipality, Doi Saket district, Chiang Mai province. The project benefits more than 3,400 residents across six villages, representing over 1,500 households. In addition to improving water resources, the project provides vocational training for local communities in water-efficient vegetable cultivation, frog farming, and catfish farming, creating additional sources of income and strengthening community livelihoods. Most importantly, the check dams store water for use during the dry season, slow floodwaters during the rainy season, and provide reliable water resources for

agriculture. They have also restored the ecological balance along the watershed, improved biodiversity, strengthened local food security, and supplied raw water for community water systems. Beyond their environmental impact, the dams contribute directly to local livelihoods and the community economy. To ensure long-term sustainability, responsibility for the maintenance and preservation of the dams has been entrusted to a joint committee comprising community representatives and the local municipality, fostering genuine community ownership and participation ■

Translated by PP Dr. Saran Chantalay, RC.Chiang Mai North, D3360

Note: Krommamuean Phittayalappruetiyakorn's Trophy, presented for the highest attendance at the district conference (DC), (is pending until the end of June).

Preparing to Become a Rotary Youth Exchange Host Family



By PP Weerathat Aruncharoenpornchai
District 3330 Host Family Coordinator
District 3330 Youth Protection Officer
(Health & Safety)

The Rotary Youth Exchange Program is one of Rotary’s most valuable initiatives in promoting international understanding. It offers young people an opportunity to learn languages, cultures, and ways of life in another country under the care of a Host Family, who plays a vital role in creating meaningful and lasting experiences for the students.

Becoming a Host Family for Rotary Youth Exchange is neither too difficult nor entirely effortless. Many families may feel uncertain at first, but hosting is not merely about providing accommodation. It is about opening one’s home and heart to welcome a young person from a different culture as a member of the family, someone who deserves care, guidance, and support in their physical, emotional, and social development.

A suitable Host Family does not need to be wealthy or possess a large home. What matters most is emotional readiness, an open-minded attitude, acceptance of differences, and a genuine commitment to ensuring that the student has a positive experience. The home environment should be safe, supportive, and conducive to communication and mutual understanding.

Before welcoming a student, the Host Family should be prepared in several areas. This includes arranging an appropriate, clean, and private living space, as well as providing essential



daily items. Family members should understand their roles and responsibilities and help create a warm and harmonious atmosphere. Learning about the student’s home country, culture, and lifestyle will also help reduce misunderstandings and support smoother adjustment.

Host Families should treat the student as their own child—offering love, attention, and appropriate guidance. They should introduce the student to Thai culture, including language, food, traditions, and daily life, while also respecting the student’s identity and cultural background. Balancing guidance with opportunities for independent learning is essential. Naturally, living with someone from a different culture may present challenges.

Host Families may encounter language barriers, behavioral differences, or cultural misunderstandings. Common issues include homesickness or difficulty in adjusting to a new environment. In such situations, open communication, active listening, and patience are crucial. If problems become complex, the family should coordinate with the district to find appropriate solutions. Hosting requires understanding, sacrifice, and responsibility, but it also offers the family a valuable opportunity to learn about the world through the student’s perspective, build cross cultural friendships, and contribute to developing global citizens.

Ultimately, what Host Families provide is not just temporary shelter, but memories and a sense of belonging—a “home away from home” that will stay in the student’s heart forever.



Preparing to Become a Rotary Youth Exchange Host Family

- **Qualifications of a Host Family** Rotary does not seek wealthy families or large homes; the primary requirement is emotional readiness.
 - Mandatory criminal background checks, especially regarding sexual offenses, domestic violence, or social violence.
 - A safe and appropriate home environment.
 - Open-mindedness and acceptance of cultural, religious, and attitudinal differences.
 - Ability to provide meals and support daily living.
 - All household members must willingly agree to host the student.
- **Preparation before the student arrives** Establish communication with the student before arrival.
- **Conduct an in home orientation to explain household rules** This is essential for ensuring a happy and harmonious stay.
- **Understand Rotary's strict prohibitions that may result in immediate repatriation:** alcohol consumption, driving, smoking, drug use, romantic relationships, and dating.
- **Clearly explain household expectations:** air conditioning schedules, cleaning responsibilities, laundry routines, etc.
- **Living with the exchange student** Treat the student as a family member—not as a guest. They are to be cared for as one's own child.
- **Challenges and adjustment** Welcoming a young person from another country inevitably involves challenges such as: language barriers, homesickness, culture shock. These should be addressed with patience and gentle guidance.
- **Crisis management** If misunderstandings or behavioral issues arise, discuss the matter directly with the student, report concerns to the YEO (Youth Exchange Officer), consult the Counselor, Inform the District Youth Exchange Chair, report to the District YPO (Youth Protection Officer) or other relevant district personnel immediately.



Youth Protection and Abuse Prevention

Rotary International maintains a zero tolerance policy regarding sexual abuse or harassment of Youth Exchange students.

“Rotary International will not tolerate and let sexual harassment occur to our YE Students.”

- If the offender is a Rotarian, their membership will be terminated and they will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.
- Non-Rotarian offender will likewise be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law, with no settlement or compromise ■

Translated by PDG Oranong Siriphonnas, Utapao International, D3340.



Winners of clubs in District 3330 that received Public Image Awards Zone 10B & 10C in 2025-26

Category: Best Outdoor Marker

- 2nd Runner-up: Rotary Club of Kanchanaburi

Category: Best Rotary Video

- Winner: Rotary Club of Promthep Phuket
- 2nd Runner-up: Rotary Club of Ban Phaeo

Category: Best Rotary Online Media Using AI

- 1st Runner-up: Rotary Club of Phuket Max
- 2nd Runner-up: Rotary Club of Ban Phaeo



Rotary Club of Promthep Phuket doing the “Rotary Loves Dugongs” project, which is an environmental conservation initiative aimed at restoring seagrass ecosystems, a vital food source for dugongs, along the coast of Phuket. The club, in collaboration with the community, volunteers, and government agencies, installed protective seagrass enclosures to allow for safe natural recovery. This was coupled with beach cleanup activities to raise awareness about marine conservation. The project reflects the “People of Action” concept, demonstrating how small actions combined with diverse approaches can create a sustainable positive impact on the environment and community. The project commenced on 4 March 2026.



Rotary Club of Ganchan delivered two prosthetic legs to two disabled individuals as part of a prosthetic leg project, giving them the opportunity to walk again. The handover took place at the Prosthetics Room of Ratchaburi Hospital, Ratchaburi province, led by P Nantiporn Wannathew and club members on 17 April 2026.

Rotary Club of Sichol-Nakornsri organized the "Safe Driving, Wear a Helmet" campaign, distributing 100 helmets to residents in the area. They also invited traffic police officers to provide traffic safety education to promote traffic discipline and to reduce road accidents. This event took place on 30 April 2026.



Rotary Club of Muang Pathom Nakorn organized an activity as part of the "Vision Assessment, Screening, and Correction Project for the Elderly," targeting senior citizens aged 60 and above in the Nakhon Pathom municipal area. The event was held at the auditorium and multipurpose building of Municipal School 4, Nakhon Pathom. Souvenirs and snacks were also distributed to all participants. The event was led by P Pong Pawithyalap and club members on 11 May 2026.

Translated by PP Phanu Yoshmetha, RC.Bangkok Cyber, D3350.

District 3340 Year-End Report, 2025-2026

By DG Wiwat Srisompong

As my term as governor of District 3340 for Rotary Year 2025–26 draws to a close, I look back with immense gratitude. Serving as district governor has been the highest honor of my Rotary journey. It has been a privilege to work, think, serve, and build meaningful achievements together with every club, every club president, the district committees, and all Rotary members.

This year, we have moved forward under Rotary International's theme, "Unite for Good". I firmly believe that the collective strength of District 3340 has demonstrated that when we unite with a common purpose, there is nothing beyond Rotary's ability to accomplish.

Membership

Although the world is changing rapidly, District 3340 has remained committed to growing membership, retaining existing members, and building strong, welcoming clubs. We have witnessed greater participation



from younger generations, revitalized clubs, and even stronger Rotary friendships than ever before.

Membership is not merely about numbers—it is the very heart of our organization.

On 1 July 2025, District 3340 began the Rotary year with 1,196 members, below the district's desired level. By 30 April 2026, membership had increased to 1,302, representing a net gain of 106 members. This



outstanding achievement earned the district Krommamuean Narathippongpraphan's Trophy, Thailand's national award for the highest net membership growth, presented to the Rotary Club of Pattaya. In addition, the Rotary Club of Chantaboon is expected to receive the national award for the highest attendance at the District Conference, with the final decision to be announced in late June.

District 3340 also successfully chartered three new Rotary clubs:

- Rotary Club of Kabkeaw Buaban Nong Bualamphu
- Rotary Club of U-Tapao International
- Rotary Club of Lan Xang, Vientiane, Lao PDR

The Rotary Foundation

I sincerely thank every club and every Rotarian for contributing generously to The Rotary Foundation. Your support has been transformed into scholarships, medical equipment, clean water initiatives, assistance for disadvantaged communities, and countless humanitarian projects across Thailand and around the world. Every dollar contributed represents far more than a financial donation—it represents hope for countless lives. District 3340 set a fundraising goal of US\$100,000 for The Rotary Foundation and expects to achieve this target by May.



Regarding Global Grants, clubs within District 3340 collaborated with other districts on 17 global grant projects involving 15 clubs, with a combined value of US\$968,623, equivalent to approximately 31.96 million Thai baht. This represents a significant level of global grant activity within our district, although we still aspire to reach the levels achieved by some other districts.



Public Image

This year, District 3340 clearly demonstrated to the public that Rotary is much more than an organization for fellowship—it is an organization of action. Our clubs implemented numerous community service projects in the areas of healthcare, education, environmental conservation, youth development, and peacebuilding. At the same time, we actively shared Rotary's stories with the wider public, enabling more people to understand, appreciate, and trust the value of Rotary. Our district was honored to receive Phraya Srivisanwaja's Troph, Thailand's national award for the most outstanding service project, presented to the Rotary Club of Chantaboon for its project: "Chantaboon Connection: Borderless Community Service — From Border Peace to Southern Flood Relief."

Translated by PP Dr. Saran Chantalay, RC.Chiang Mai North, D3360



Throughout the past year, I may not have accomplished everything perfectly. However, every decision I made, every journey I undertook, and every responsibility I accepted was carried out with my utmost dedication, guided by a genuine spirit of service and my deep love for Rotary.

As I conclude my term as District Governor, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our past district governors, district governor-elect, district governor-nominee, district governor-nominee designate, assistant governors, club presidents, district committees, Rotarians, Rotaractors, Interactors, and every member of the Rotary family for joining together to make this a truly meaningful Rotary year.

Although my term as district governor comes to an end, the spirit of service, fellowship, and Uniting for Good will continue to live on.

May District 3340 continue to grow stronger and make an even greater contribution to our world with pride and distinction ■





Rotary Club of Amnat Charoen, together with Rotary Club of Vientiane and Rotary Club of Lan Xang, participated in a project to help the people of Laos who suffered from the hailstorm. They donated THB 50,000 from the Sow the Seeds of Love Foundation, THB 10,000 from the Rotary Club of Amnat Charoen and THB 6,000 from the Rotary Club of Magkang, totaling THB 66,000 to the Rotary Clubs of Vientiane and Lan Xang for their relief efforts. Rotary Club of Amnat Charoen, a sister club of Rotary Club of Vientiane, and DGN Pakpoom Joomparak of the Rotary Club of Lan Xang served as advisors. This assistance is part of the friendship and goodwill between Rotary District 3340, led by DGE Itthipol Kanjanapimol, P Nithinan Thavornsawetrasmi, and members on 2 April 2026.



Rotary Club of Krasang Buriram organized an event to donate socks, face masks, and sports equipment to students at Ban Yang School, along with providing lunch and snacks for the children. Before concluding the event, they planted trees as a memento at Ban Yang School, Lamduan subdistrict, Krasang district, Buriram province.



Rotary Club of Lotus City-Ubon, led by P Theerawat Thammaroj, along with Rotary Club of Sri-Ubon, Rotary Club of Moon River (District 3340), Rotary Club of Rat Burana, Rotary Club of Singburi Veerachon and Rotary Club of Silom (District 3350), and the Bez Club Ubon Ratchathani, jointly donated a bronchoscopy camera, valued at over 2.1 million Baht, to 50th Anniversary Maha Vajiralongkorn Hospital in Mueang district, Ubon Ratchathani province. The ceremony was presided over by Dr. Praphrut Thanakitjaru, the hospital director. Dr.Yongyuth Thitichethrakul, specialist physician, presented information on the bronchoscopy service, highlighting the importance of the camera in accurate and rapid diagnosis and treatment planning, thereby increasing access to quality care and extending the chances of survival for others.



Rotary Club of Chantaburi and Rotary Club of Chantaboon jointly donated a Fluid Warmer (saline solution warmer) to Laem Sing Hospital in Chanthaburi province. The hospital director and staff warmly welcomed the donation. This saline solution warmer was donated during the 2026 Rotary Fair held on 17 April 2026.

Translated by PP Phanu Yoshmetha, RC.Bangkok Cyber, D3350.

Rotary One Day



DGND Dr. Archara Pandaeng
Rotary One Day
Sub-committee Chair

Rotary One Day is a form of proactive treatment designed to provide "One-Stop Service" in one area within one day so that people, especially young people, can access necessary services in a convenient, quick and integrated way.

The project aims to meet the real needs of the community and create a lasting positive impact not only on the day of the event but also on the development of quality of life and the potential of the community in the long run.

Project Success Overview

In Rotary Year 2025–2026, the Rotary One Day project received strong cooperation from Rotary clubs and all sectors of the network, resulting in tangible success.

- Youths and the public benefit a total of 5,798 people.
- Conducted 132 beneficial service activities.

This reflects the power of partnership and Rotary's potential to truly create positive changes at the spatial level.

Areas of operation and community outreach

The project was carried out in District 3350 covering schools and communities in Bangkok and four other provinces, namely Lopburi, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya, Singburi, Nakhon Sawan. The activities were held at various educational institutions such as Phra Narai School, Port School "Nittayanukul" School, Inburi School, Satri Nakhon Sawan School, as well as community areas in Bangkok such as Bang Kae Aged School and Matthayom Naknawa School. Details of the activities in each area also show a variety of activities, up to 43 activities in some areas, including schools, urban communities and senior citizens groups.

Description of activities performed

The activities under the Rotary One Day program are designed to cover physical development, knowledge, skills and quality of life as follows:



1. Health and Hygiene - disease screening, Dental services (Dental examinations, Tooth extraction and fluoride treatments), CPR skills training, mental health and meditation training.
2. Education and Youth Development - career guidance (e.g. pharmacists, entrepreneurs), Financial administration, exchange student program, Capacity building and Life skills development.
3. Vocational skills - food processing (Agar jelly, Curry), Coffee beans sorting, Dishwashing liquid making workshop, Handicrafts and pottery.
4. Environment - Waste management, Recycling, Building environmental conscience.
5. Safety and Personality – Helmets distribution, Personality enhancement, Image and confidence building.

The power of cooperation

The success of the project stems from the cooperation of many sectors, including: Rotary clubs in many areas, Rotarians and interactors, government agencies such as the Provincial Public Health Office, professional organizations such as dentistry council, local government organization. Such cooperation is an important factor that enables the project to be broadened and efficient.

A heart to sustainability

Rotary One Day is not just a short-term activity, but it has an important goal: "Enabling communities to develop themselves continuously" by focusing on addressing the real needs of the area, building practical knowledge and skills, and empowering communities to be self-sufficient in the long run.

Summary

The 2025-26 Rotary One Day project is a clear example of effective proactive service that can have a positive impact on health, education, career and quality of life for people. With a one-day integrated service model coupled with the cooperation of all sectors, the project not only creates "giving" but also truly creates "opportunities" and "sustainability" for the community ■

Translated by PP Santi Chatterjee, RC Bangkok, D3350.



Club President of Rotary Year 118 and their Past District Governor Mitsutaka Ida presented 5 printers to Saraburi Hospital On Thursday, 9 April 2026, to support the operations of the staff to be more convenient, faster and more efficient. It reduces the burden of paperwork and increases the time for medical personnel to take care of patients at their best.



District Governor Meets Club Presidents and District Committee # 4, held as the final meeting of this year on 9-10 May 2026, at Nai Hua Cafe and Shan Wang Restaurant, Nakhon Nayok Province. The daytime session featured a children's lunch hosting activity, along with donating cash and various items to the CHF Foundation. The evening session consisted of recreational activities focusing on fellowship among Rotarians. There were 133 participants from 65 clubs, including 56 club presidents of this year.



Rotary Club of Central Yangon held a handover ceremony for a newly constructed school building with complete infrastructure (part of Rotary Post-Earthquake Rebuild and Recovery Project, funded by Rotary International District 3350) at Kyeemyindine school, Mandalay on 26 May 2026. Guided by the belief that rebuilding schools means rebuilding future. D3350 leaders, led by DG Tawatchai Chatvittayanon, attended the ceremony. 600 students received essential school supply kits, while a community lunch for over 400 attendees marked the handover with shared celebration and gratitude.





Rotary Club of Bangkok East joined the 60th-anniversary celebration of the Rotary Club of Singapore East. The two clubs have shared a close bond as sister clubs for over 30 years, regularly visiting and participating in important events together. On this occasion, a group of 7 members traveled to offer their congratulations from 9-12 April 2026, reflecting the enduring strength of the friendship between the two clubs over time.



Rotary Club of Rangsit in collaboration with a sister Rotary Club from Japan and Past District Governor Mitsutaka Ida, donated school bags, equipment, and sports uniforms to Chumchon Prachatipat Rangsit School. They also held a traditional water-pouring ceremony for the elderly to mark the Songkran festival on 11 April 2026.



Rotary Club of Singburi Veerachon donated an intravenous infusion pump to Bang Rachan Camp Hospital, valued at THB 38,000, using the remaining funds from project GG2571832. This device improves medication accuracy, eliminates errors, allows for quick setup, eliminates the need for manual drip counting as in the past, and also prevents air bubbles.



Rotary Club of Shwe Bangkok and Rotaract Club jointly organized a blood donation activity at the National Blood Centre, Thai Red Cross Society, on 15 April 2026. This event was held to celebrate the Myanmar New Year and to promote compassion and community service under the spirit of "Mingalar" (doing good). A total of 48 donors participated in the event.



Rotary Club of Muang Chainat donated one 5-liter oxygen concentrator to Sapphaya Hospital, Chainat Province, on 21 April 2026. This donation aims to assist patients with respiratory system disorders and is part of the "Sharing Breath with Society" project, which strives to enhance the quality of life and provide sustainable social support.



Rotary Club of Tharua donated an emergency hemodialysis machine valued at THB 150,000 to Tha Rua Hospital, Tha Rua district, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya province, on 22 April 2026. The funds for this donation were raised through a charity football match.

Translated by PP Santi Chatterjee, RC Bangkok, D3350.

The Power of Presence:

The Power of the Rotary District 3360 Conference

By: PP Narit Kannika, Rotary Club of Chiang Rai
(Vice Chair of the District Conference Organizing Committee)

Edited by: PP Thanijporn Khomson, Rotary Club of Doirabaht

Why the District Conference Is More Important Than You Think?

In an era where communication happens at the touch of a fingertip, many might question, "Is traveling to attend a meeting in person still necessary?" However, for Rotary, the District 3360 Conference is not just another event on the district calendar. It is a "Space of Power" that unites members from diverse clubs into one. Sometimes, true power does not come from reading messages on a screen, but from the experience of "being there" together.

The district conference, or what we call the DC, is a vital opportunity for members to meet, exchange experiences, and learn from one another. Stories of successful service projects, innovative work concepts, or even lessons learned from past obstacles all serve as inspiration for members to bring back and develop their own clubs and communities. Many times, great projects do not start in the main conference hall, but rather from short conversations over a meal, meeting a new friend, or shaking hands with someone who shares the same ideals. This is the charm of a district conference that technology can never replace.

Furthermore, attending the DC serves as an important platform for building a shared understanding of Rotary's direction both at the district and global levels. Members gain a macro-vision of the organization's goals, understand their own roles, and see that the small service projects they do in their local communities are, in fact, part of creating an international impact.



The Power of a Rotary Conference: When We Meet

What added even greater value and meaning to this conference was the attendance of the Rotary International

President's Personal Representative (RIPPR), which is a supreme honor for District 3360. Hearing the vision, perspectives, and experiences from the RIPPR helped broaden our members' minds, allowing them to see the bigger picture of Rotary on a global scale. This year, District 3360 had the privilege of welcoming PRID Ghim Bok Chew from the Rotary Club of Bugis Junction, Singapore, as the RIPPR. He has continuously served as a leader in Rotary at both the zone and international levels. His past roles include assistant regional Rotary Foundation coordinator, assistant public image coordinator, Rotary coordinator, Chair of the Zone Institute Organizing Committee, and Chair of the 2024 Rotary International Convention Organizing Committee in Singapore.

PRID Ghim Bok Chew did not only deliver the message from the Rotary International President to us, but he also served as a "bridge" connecting local community service to the mission of Rotarians worldwide. He opened up new perspectives on community service, stating that: "The power of collaboration can create monumental success. Because one plus one might not always equal two; it can become eleven." This message filled every member with pride, inspiring members to take pride in their

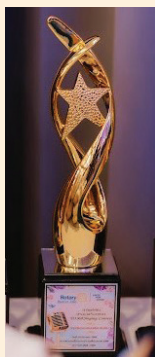




service, knowing that even seemingly small actions can create meaningful and lasting change in their communities.

One Stage, A Thousand Voices: District 3360's First Singing Contest

Of course, the District Conference was not only about learning and professional development. It was also filled with friendship, warmth, and memorable moments. One of the highlights of this year's conference was the inaugural District 3360 Singing Contest, which attracted an impressive 58 participants from across the district. The event was filled with smiles, laughter, and the spirit of Rotary fellowship. It was not merely a competition based on vocal ability or technique, but rather a stage where members could express their joy, courage, and individuality. Many participants are leaders, entrepreneurs, physicians, or executives in their daily lives. Yet on stage, they were simply fellow Rotarians sharing happiness through music. The enthusiastic support from members of different clubs, the lively atmosphere, and the experience of singing together created unforgettable moments and strengthened



friendships throughout the district. For many, new friendships began with nothing more than a song shared on that stage.

Ultimately, the Rotary District 3360 Conference is not just an "annual meeting," but a platform for connection, learning, and inspiration. It is a space that makes every member realize that our gathering carries a much deeper meaning than we think. Because "The Power of Presence" does not simply mean attending an event, it means the power of coming together to learn and collectively create sustainable change for a better community. See you again next year! "See San Jaem Kra-Prong Ban" (Vibrant Colors & Flowing Skirts), hosted by the Rotary Club of Chiang Mai Nawarat, as they pass the torch to host the 2027 District Conference ■

Translated by PP Naiyana Khomson, RC.Doiprabaht, D3360.





District 3360 has received 3 awards from Rotary International Zones 10B & 10C Public Image Awards Category: Best POA Photos - 1st Runner-up: Rotary Club of Wiangkosai, Category: Best Rotary Video - 1st Runner-up: Rotary Club of Chiangmai Thin-Thai-Ngam, Category: Best Public Image Campaign - Winner: Rotary Club of Chiang Mai International

These awards are another source of pride, reflecting the power of "people of action" by Rotary members in the area. It recognizes not only the project's success but also reflects a clearer understanding of storytelling through visuals. Out of 170 entries from 69 clubs across 7 districts in 10 countries and 1 province in China, this award marks the beginning of another chapter. This is not just the end of the competition, but a spark for every club and the new image of Rotary.



Rotary Club of Chiang Mai, together with Rotary Club of Chiang Mai Nawarat, Rotary Club of Chiangmai Thin-Thai-Ngam, Rotary Club of Chiang Mai International, and Rotaract Club of Lanna Woodcraft, and with the cooperation of Sukhsawat Group Co., Ltd. and Lertwasin Co., Ltd., organized a community service activity to assemble 85 sets of tables and chairs. These were donated to Ban Rin Luang School (which suffered from last year's floods) in Chiang Dao district, Chiang Mai province. The handover took place at the Sukhsawat factory in Doi Saket district, Chiang Mai province, led by President (Acting) Sub-Lieutenant Sekasit Limcharoen on 3 May 2026.



The tradition of "Rod Nam Dam Hua" (pouring water on elders' hands) is an important cultural practice in northern Thailand, especially during Songkran, the Thai New Year. The word "Dam Hua" comes from the Lanna language and means "to cleanse" or "to ask for forgiveness." Therefore, this tradition has a deep meaning: showing respect, seeking blessings, and asking for forgiveness from elders. Within Rotary, many clubs in April, such as Rotary Club of Chaiprakan, Rotary Club of Nakhonping Chiang Mai, Rotary Club of Chiang Mai, Rotary Club of Chiangmai Doi Suthep, Rotary Club of Chiangsaen, Rotary Club of Phitsanulok, and Rotary Club of Lampang, hold "Rod Nam Dam Hua" ceremony to show respect and seek blessings from elders. The atmosphere at these events is warm, joyful, and friendly. Everyone shares a spirit of giving and participating in social activities without expecting anything in return, reflecting the beautiful spirit of volunteerism and unity of all members.



Rotary Club of Payao, in collaboration with the Phayao Municipality, the Phayao Freshwater Fisheries Station, the Phayao Provincial Farmers' Council, local partners in Mueang Phayao district, and fellow Rotarians of District 3360, organized the "Release Fish, Save Lives" event to raise funds for the purchase of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) for public exercise areas along the Phayao Lake. The governor of Phayao province assigned Mr. Somchai Wongchariyakesem, District Chief of Mueang Phayao, to preside over the ceremony. His Holiness Tulku Rabke Rinpoche of Bhutan graciously offered blessings for the auspiciousness of the event. Rotary Club of Payao expresses its gratitude to everyone who helped transform "drops of kindness" into "breath of life" for the future. (6 April 2026).



On the occasion of its 25th Anniversary, **Rotary Club of Doi Prabaht** organized a charity concert, "Love Songs from Pol Pol: A Warm Night," featuring artist Pol Pol Polkongsang. Besides bringing joy and creating lasting memories for attendees, the event was also a valuable fundraising activity for the "Horse Carriage Insurance" project. Lampang is the only province in Northern Thailand where horse-drawn carriages are a unique cultural tourism feature. This project has been ongoing for 16 years, truly promoting safety and improving the quality of life for the community. Throughout the past 25 years, Rotary Club of Doi Prabaht has remained committed to its ideals of service and continuous community service.

Translated by PP Phanu Yoshmetha, RC.Bangkok Cyber, D3350.



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A few of my favorite things

All attendees have a favorite Rotary International Convention experience — or two or three. A sampling of what members are looking forward to most in Taipei:



- In-depth learning about Rotary, including directly from the RI president and RI general secretary



- The flag ceremony that represents Rotary nations and territories. Goosebumps!



- The House of Friendship — Rotary Fellowship booths and peace exhibits are two faves



- The chance to make friends, pursue your passion, and explore an exciting city



- Top-notch entertainment and inspiration — renowned speakers and a stage spectacular



- That feeling of what's possible with Rotary's global reach

For Pauline Leung, a member of the Rotary Club of Taipei Pei-An, one thing RI makes possible is the chance for international service. “Through Rotary, our helping hands can grow very long, and the world feels like a smaller village because Rotary unites us as one,” she says. Leung, a host committee member, hopes you come to Taiwan when the village of Rotary unites 13-17 June ■



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