

## DG Hans Dodge December Message

Here we are, coming to the close of another calendar year, and reflecting on what good things have happened to us and our friends and families. What good have we done for others , especially those less fortunate than ourselves.

President Kalyan Banerjee, asked of us all to emphasis “family , continuity and change” this current Rotary year. The story of Christmas is of family and one that any religion can understand. The universality of the importance of family resides within all people with whom we share this earth.

If we can focus on strengthening families, maintaining generational bonds, supporting education for all children, male and female equally, helping families obtain shelter, employment and the ability to grow or purchase food for their families , then we have set the groundwork to enable peace and goodwill to take root among mankind.

This month many of us will attend Christmas events or other seasonal celebrations. Take a moment to remember those in your own community who could use some small manner of your generosity.

Bring a donation for the Food Bank , donate a toy or clothing for a child. Remember the organizations who help the homeless, the working poor, the new Canadians. Volunteer at a food kitchen , serve a local dinner at the Salvation Army , a church or Gudhwara. Write a cheque to UNICEF. It has been said “to those whom much has been given , much is expected”. Has your family had a chance to reflect upon the spirit of Christmas ?

Let us all close out this wonderful year, in the service to others , so that we can enter the coming New Year , sure in the knowledge that we have done something to make anothers' life a little better , and doing so make Family, Ours and Theirs , the building blocks for our futures together.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your Family.

DG Hans

