



Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Virtual Meeting

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SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

SEPTEMBER IS BASIC EDUCATION AND LITERACY MONTH

Happy Birthday

Happy Anniversary

UPCOMING SPEAKERS:

Sep 7:	Dr. Baker Treating Addictions	Sep 14:	John Mikulik The South Pole	Sep 21:	
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RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I am sure you are having an enriching experience as you *Serve to Change Lives*. One of the ways you can make the greatest change in a person's life is to help them learn to read. Literacy opens up the world to us. It makes us better informed about life in our own communities and opens vistas to other cultures. Reading and writing connects people and gives us another way to express our love for one another.

September is Basic Education and Literacy Month in Rotary. Enhancing literacy skills is critical in our pursuit of reducing poverty, improving health, and promoting peace. In fact, if all students in low-income countries left school with basic reading skills, it would result in a significant cut in global poverty rates.

Without education, illiterate children become illiterate adults. Today, 14 percent of the world's adult population — 762 million people — lack basic reading and writing skills. Two-thirds of that group are women. Literacy and numeracy skills are essential to obtaining better housing, health care, and jobs over a lifetime.

Especially for girls and women, literacy can be a life-or-death issue. If all girls completed their primary education, there would be far fewer maternal deaths. And a child is more likely to survive past age 5 if he or she is born to a mother who can read. Improving outcomes for more people worldwide is possible only if countries remove barriers to education for girls. The economic argument for doing so is clear: In some countries where schooling is geared toward boys, the cost of missed economic opportunity is more than \$1 billion per year.

Empowering people through education is among the boldest goals we have as Rotarians. We don't have to travel far from our homes to encounter those whose lives are being curtailed because they struggle with reading, rely on others to read for them, or cannot write anything more than their own name.

Starting this month, consider how your club can *Serve to Change Lives* through literacy: Support local organizations that offer free programs to support adult literacy or local language learning, or that provide teachers with professional development centered around reading and writing. Become literacy mentors, or work with an organization like the Global Partnership for Education to increase learning opportunities for children around the world. Have conversations with local schools and libraries to see how your club can support their existing programs or help create needed ones in your community.

In India, the TEACH program, a successful collaboration between the country's Rotary clubs and its government, has demonstrated how to scale up literacy efforts to reach millions of children. And at a time when schools across India were closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the program's e-learning component reached more than 100 million children through national television.

Literacy is the first step out of poverty. As Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai has noted, "One child, one teacher, one book, and one pen can change the world."

Shekhar Mehta
RI President 2021-22

OUR CLUB LAST WEEK'S MEETING:

President Patrick Dobbyn presided.

Guests: Linda Debruyn, and speaker Max Weselowski

Program: innerVisions Recovery Society ("InnerVisions")



innerVisions RECOVERY SOCIETY

Our Speaker **Max Weselowski** is the **Director of Operations for InnerVisions**, and is the son of the co-founders **Billy** and **Kim Weselowski**. He is very passionate about the work that he does, following in his parents' footsteps (except that he has never been addicted to drugs or alcohol). Since working at InnerVisions, he has held all the positions the Society has to offer and oversees all aspects of the men's and women's programs. He is currently working on obtaining a Masters of Business Administration at Simon Fraser University.



Max Weselowski

InnerVisions operates residential alcohol and drug rehabilitation centres in Maple Ridge, one for women at Hannah House, and one for men at Miller House.

His parents, **Billy and Kim**, were drug addicts who met at a rehabilitation Centre in 1988.



Billy & Kim Weselowski - co-founders of InnerVisions

Billy got involved in drugs at about age 15 and was in and out of jail until he was about 30 years old. They cleaned themselves up and started their rehabilitation centre in one-half of a duplex with four mats on the floor for beds, and have grown to about 100 Beds in total, with about 45 beds in **Hannah House** and about 55 beds in **Miller House**, both in Maple Ridge.

For InnerVisions, recovery means every person can get sober and deserves the chance to do it. Except for Max, all staff of InnerVisions were in the program of recovery and have a passion about the work that they do. Addicts cannot say to them "you don't know what it's like", because all staff members have been through it. To get sober, an addict needs to have an "internal fire", says Max, which gives them the impetus to stop using drugs. The philosophy and program of InnerVisions does not include a belief in harm reduction - that is to say, they are not a program that prescribes methadone (which is in effect synthetic heroin) or provides "safe" or clean drugs; those types of programs have as their basic objective to keep people alive. Rather, the objective of InnerVisions is to give addicts the dignity of knowing that they are capable of standing on their own, to give them back a productive life, and to let them know that no one else will or can do it for them. "We do not coddle", says Max, and "we believe in consequences". Those in the program must give up drugs and alcohol completely, and will be removed from the program if they break the rules, although some will be allowed back in after 30 days if they can re-commit. "Most people who are addicted are very lonely, and cannot make connections with others", Max noted. InnerVisions makes connections possible and creates a strict but welcoming and safe environment. 85% of the persons who have completed their program are still clean after six months.

The Website of InnerVisions states:

- ❖ *At InnerVisions Recovery Society, we have had the honour of providing support to tens of thousands of individuals struggling with addiction, we have watched families become whole again and individuals become productive members of society. We run abstinence-based treatment programs for men and women, following the principles of the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous. In our 29 years of experience we have learned, with confidence, that there is a way out of the loneliness and degradation of addiction.*
- ❖ *The InnerVisions Program is not for people who are shopping, or contemplating getting some help. InnerVisions requires a total, unreserved commitment to the goal of living clean and sober. All clients must accept and adhere to all House rules and routines. Failure to adhere to our House rules and policies will result in termination of your residence at InnerVisions. We take the business of getting clean and sober very, very, seriously.*
- ❖ *InnerVisions is a safe, structured, organized environment created and operated by people who themselves have overcome their substance abuse issues; all facility staff are in recovery themselves. We openly admit our program is highly structured, and when a person is coming into InnerVisions they need to know we are rigorous to the application of our program standards. We also know that if you have a problem with alcohol and drugs, we have a proven solution: you can RECOVER!*

- ❖ *InnerVisions has become a nationally respected and recognized non-profit recovery society. Its licensed residential treatment program holds the highest accreditation possible.*

Announcements: **Rotary Garage Sale**

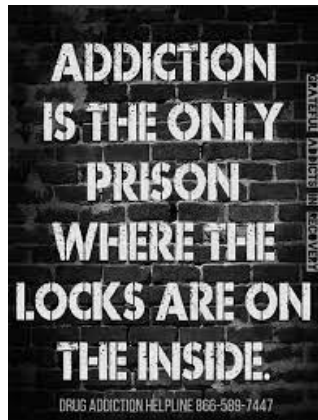
The Rotary Garage Sale has been rescheduled for **Saturday, September 18, 2021**. Set up will begin at 9:30 AM and the sale will be conducted between 11 AM and 2 PM, so bring your items as early as possible prior to the opening of the sale.



Happy and Sad Dollars

Thanks to rather large contributions from **Mark and Eric**, as well as other happy Rotarians (and our speaker), approximately \$125 was collected.

Today's Quote: (very apropos to today's program and the philosophy of InnerVisions):



Submitted by Laurie Anderson