

Marlene Doherty exemplifies “Service Above Self” as she engages in the community. Marlene’s inspirational leadership has been a lifelong journey, where her servant leadership engaged, motivated, and inspired many.

During her 37-year career as a Physical Education teacher, Marlene was instrumental in the implementation of successful daily physed for Elementary Students as well as leading the Physed program for Junior High. She published two very engaging books putting fun into healthy lifestyles. Marlene was honored by the Health and Physical. Council for Distinguished Service in Alberta. Marlene continues to mentor many teachers in her retirement and assists in special programming in schools as a volunteer.

Her leadership extended to the Junior League of Calgary where Marlene held many roles including President of the Calgary Club of over 180 members. JLC is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism and improving the community through leadership training. (www.juniorleaguecalgary.com) . She remains an active member of the Sustainers Building Community Committee and was recently awarded the prestigious Joan Crocker Community & Civic Leadership Award.

She is an Elder at the Grace Presbyterian Church and is also, convener of the Engagement & Services Committee, an usher and member of the Handbell Choir. Marlene’s current initiative includes a highly successful Satellite Food Bank partnership between Rotary, Grace Presbyterian, and the Calgary Food Bank. Marlene coordinates over 50 Rotary and Community volunteers monthly and serves 40 to 50 community members and families weekly. Marlene’s inspiration has resulted in past recipients volunteering to support the program and give back for what they received. The foodbank has also been extended to Connaught School where extra food, clothing and other support is provided for a very needy population. Marlene also extended her reach by introducing Connaught School to the Calgary Centennial Rotary Club, and this inspired an ongoing Partnership. Through Marlene’s leadership she has also partnered with I Can for Kids to provide financial support for the Connaught students and families.

Marlene has been affiliated with Calgary West Rotary since 1982 when her husband Dan joined. As this is before women could become Rotary members, Marlene leapt into the partner program eventually becoming the President of the Rotary-Anne’s. Marlene joined Calgary West Rotary Club (2015) after participating in an NID trip to Ethiopia.

During Dan’s year as District Governor Marlene was instrumental in the success of many District Initiatives. Participating in all Club visits, training programs, community events Marlene’s connection to many Club leadership provided a unique opportunity for the district to respond. Marlene was the inspiration behind the “Rotary Bus” and maintains many of the connections.

She served as Director of Services & Grants, Club Secretary, and Fun & Fellowship Director. Currently supports the Foundation committee. She served as President of Calgary West during COVID for the 2021/22 year. In this difficult time Marlene led the Club by engaging all the members to participate in developing an Action Plan that helped the Club to be “*Relevant, Inspiring and Engaging*”. Through her leadership and energy, she held the Club together and grew membership in uncertain times.

Marlene is also the Club Champion for “It’s Never too Late” program, a unique community driven partnership with Kindred to provide educational opportunities for young people who

may have previously struggled with education. Marlene's unique ability to pull together volunteers with Rotary and the community was foundational for this very important initiative

Marlene was the instigator and passion behind the Homes of Hope Program. Without her drive the program would never have started. This year was the 18th trip to build homes for the poor in Mexico. Though Marlene's inspiration again Rotary (6 different Calgary area Clubs as well as Rotary in Mexico) and community partners were pulled together resulting in over 70 Homes being built in the Mexican Baja Peninsula. That represents over 300 immediate family members and over 16,800 volunteer hours.

She has participated in two NID polio trips in Ethiopia that has motivated Marlene to be a Polio Champion. As the District Polio plus Chair Marlene was instrumental in developing the "Move for Polio" campaign that inspired and engaged members across all Clubs in the District raise funds. Through her leadership the district has raised over \$400,000 USD to assist in the eradication of Polio. Marlene was recognized by the District for her accomplishments. Again, through her vision there will be a "Pancakes for Polio" signature event at the International Convention.

Marlene's International service goes beyond Mexico and Polio. Trips to Uganda, Malawi, Guatemala, and Peru show her commitment to Service and her willingness to say yes.

Marlene's inspirational leadership has been recognized by Rotary International. Marlene together with her husband were selected as Learning Facilitators for the International Assembly. While Dan worked with the DGE's, Marlene was engaging with and empowering their partners. There were 40 Learning facilitators for the DGE's and 38 for their partners chosen from across the Rotary World. The event brings together 550 DGE's from 180 different Nations, along with all the Rotary Leadership. While only 15% of people are selected for a second term Marlene was selected to return in February 2025, but unfortunately with her Health issues was unable to attend.

Her Facilitating skills have also been used at numerous Zone Institutes.

During 2024 she transferred to the Rotary Club of Heritage Park, Calgary

Paul Harris Fellow – Marlene together with her husband are Level 3 Major Donors.