

Rotary Employment Partnership E-Blast

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Inclusion
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Government

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25 Years of the Rotary Employment Partnership

At Inclusion Alberta's Annual Family Conference in April, a meaningful milestone was celebrated: the 25-year anniversary of the Rotary Employment Partnership. This innovative partnership has opened doors to inclusive employment opportunities for hundreds of individuals with intellectual disabilities, creating lasting impact for employees, families, and communities alike.

The celebration brought together past and current District Governors, inclusive employers, employees, and family members to reflect on the partnership's legacy and continued growth. Through their stories, a common theme emerged: when communities come together with intention, the results are truly life changing.



One of the most powerful moments came from Aashita, who shared her journey of working at the Calgary Public Library. This May marks her 8-year anniversary in her role as a Library Experience Assistant. She shared, "When I think about what this job has meant in my life, it's hard to put into words. It's helped me grow my confidence, find my purpose, and see a future for myself. This is the first time I've felt like I have a real career, not just a job."

Aashita's story is just one example of the profound impact Rotarians have helped make possible through their commitment to inclusion. The Rotary Employment Partnership continues to demonstrate that meaningful employment is not only about a paycheque—it's about belonging, dignity, and the opportunity to contribute in a way that matters.

As we celebrate 25 years of this partnership, we look ahead with optimism knowing there are still many individuals seeking meaningful employment and workplaces ready to become more inclusive. With the continued leadership of Rotarians, we can keep building communities where everyone belongs and succeeds.

Community Inclusion Award - Costco Okotoks



Congratulations to Costco Okotoks for receiving a Community Inclusion Award at the 2026 Annual President's Reception!

Through the Rotary Employment Partnership, Siobhan secured a job at Costco in Okotoks, where she has been a valued employee since 2022. Siobhan's role includes packing customer carts at check out, returning items to shelves, general store tidiness and during the summer months she also works in the garden center. Siobhan's manager, Kristen, says that customers frequently comment on Siobhan's positive attitude and enthusiasm for her job, traits that Kristen says has a meaningful impact on other staff members as well. "We can count on her to do whatever job we ask her to do—whether it's packing groceries, putting product back on the shelves, or working in the parking lot bringing in buggies. She does every job with a smile." Siobhan takes great pride in her work and says her confidence has flourished. With her savings from working at Costco, Siobhan was able to purchase a home of her own earlier this year.

If you are interested in knowing how your workplace or Rotary Club can become involved, please contact:

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