



ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025



This report covers the activities and impact of the Rotary Club of Winnipeg for the Rotary year July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

Thank you to all the Board members who have made this year successful. A special thanks to all members of the club who participated in many ways to ensure the success of our programs and projects.

THANK YOU ROTARIANS!!

Frank Cosway

President 2024-25



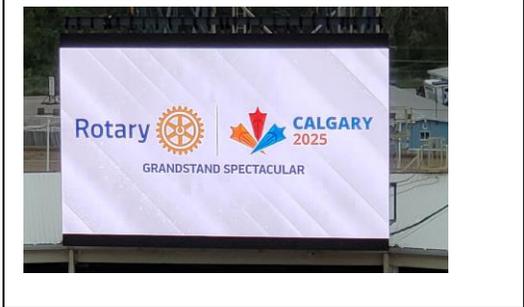
We continued our partnership with Sleep in Heavenly Peace and had 3 bed builds



Celebrated the 120th anniversary of Rotary International with a reception with 120 Manitoba Rotarians at the Lieutenant Governors house on April 15, 2025



Participated in the Rotary International Convention held in Calgary in June



Supported our Youth Leaders through several youth programs including Model United Nations Assembly





HIGHLIGHTS OF CLUB ACTIVITES - JULY 1, 2024 TO JUNE 30, 2025

This Rotary year 2024-25 has been a very exciting for the Club. Thank you all so much for your commitment to Rotary and for your valuable contributions. The work that we all do is impactful. Below are a few highlights from the past year.

- Model United Nations Assembly was held in May with 67 delegations
- Rotary Adventures in Human Rights was held in August with 24 grade 12 youth
- Support was provided to Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Pitikwe Skate Park, Spirit Horse, Robotics Training, One Pallet One Community, medical supplies to the DRC, sustainable food programs in South Africa
- 13 new members inducted to the main club and 7 inducted in the Satellite Club
- 87 boxes of winter clothing, as well as skates, hockey equipment and skate sharpening machines sent North to our partner indigenous communities.

Details of these and many other impactful programs and projects are detailed in this Annual Impact Report. Thank you to all members who provided information for this Annual Impact Report.

We are helping to improve the world!

CLOSING REMARKS - June 2025 - Outgoing President Frank Cosway

Good evening Fellow Rotarians. Tonight is an evening when we celebrate our successes, look back at the impact we have made this year and remember why we are Rotarians and People of Action.

The Rotary International Presidential theme for 2024-25 was “The Magic of Rotary” and I believe we have been able to do that in several ways through our programs/projects and activities.

But first let me thank all of you for your support to the club during this past year. You are the ones that created the successes.

A highlight of the year was the celebration of 120 years of Rotary. In April we were hosted by the Honourable Lieutenant Governor, Ms. Anita Neville at Government House for a reception. 120 Rotarians from around the province attended. It was a meeting for all to remember.



So lets look back on what we accomplished between July 1 2024 and June 30 2025.



During 2024-25 we inducted 13 new members. Our Satellite Club inducted 7 new members. There was a great push in the last few months of the year to attract and induct new members so that our District would reach the 1,200 membership quota. We Did It! Our Club and District is thriving !

Let's reach out and get to know our new members, make them feel welcome, engage with them and make them feel a part of our organization.

We hosted Chicha from Thailand for one year, as our exchange student, and she headed back home in August 2024. This was a life changing experience for Chicha.

We continued sponsoring youth in Manitoba for many projects and programs and details of these events appear later in the report

Peace Days events were held in September with many events organized throughout the month

Honouring Indigenous Peoples program is active in responding to needs in our remote Indigenous partner communities with winter clothing, skates, hockey equipment, fishing equipment, books, other learning tools and beds.

In South Africa we reached our Goal of 1,000 survival gardens. Completed the water system in Tawini to lift water up the hill from the spring to a storage tank. Supported the Zero2Five project for children with good nutrition.

Satellite club had an evening of entertainment to raise funds for Oak Table and raised \$8,000. Congratulations!

Rotaractors - both the University of Winnipeg and University of Manitoba clubs are busy and have participated in our Rotary meetings and activities. Several Rotaractors have joined the Satellite Club. Our Club supported 4 Rotaractors to attend the District Meeting in Russell in April and the Rotary International Convention in Calgary in June. Plans are in progress for a third Rotaract Club at the Université de Saint Boniface.

All in all it has been a very busy year with support to ongoing programs and activities as well as responding to new needs and programs to support.

We must remember that Projects ranging from small, localized initiatives to better one's own community to those that take the world by storm are all part of our Rotary action. All we need is one person to bring the idea to the club with passion and spread the idea to others and other clubs.

Thank you

Submitted by Frank Cosway
President July 2024 to June 2025



Ope , Chicha and Frank at her farewell dinner



Rotaractors from UoM and Frank at Polo Park Kettle Collection for the Salvation Army

Board of Directors July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

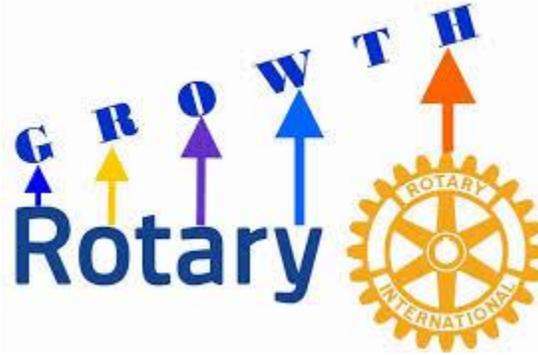
President – Frank Cosway
President Elect – Ope Allen
Past President – Ronald Reider
Secretary – Philis Akunne
Treasurer – Adenola Odunga
Membership – Nancy Cosway
Satellite Club Chair – Pat Austin

Community Services – Brent Jorowski
Youth Services – Frank Cosway
Fund Raising – Ronald Reider
World Community Services – Strini Reddy
Public Relations/Communication – Ope Allen
Board Advisor – Rob Tisdale
Club Services – Jeannette Brigit



1. NEW MEMBERS

The Rotary Club is pleased to have 13 new members inducted in the club during the year 2024-2025. 7 new members were inducted in the Satellite Club, including 2 former Rotaractors. Everyone brings skills, talents, enthusiasm, diversity and commitment to our Club.



Please take time at the meetings to get to know these new members or reach out through clubrunner to them. WELCOME!

13 New Members in the Main Club



Terry MacLeod



Slava Pogoreltsev



Charlie Cheffins



John Naam



Jake Levchenko



Izzedin Hawamda



Atinuke Babalola



Teko Bailey



Samuel Karichu



Juliana Romero



Jerusha Onyimbo



Toluwalopu Omonale-Bello



Adetutu Oyerinde



7 New Members in the Satellite Club



Jozsef Pintarics



Yahya Samatar



Wendy Hales



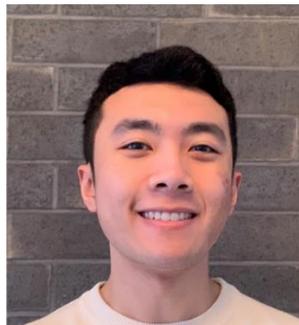
Najib Wasame



Rebecca Deng



Mohammed Sheheryar Mouzam



Jaydon Gan



2. COMMUNITY SERVICES

Under Community Services fall the following programs/projects:

- Honoring Indigenous Peoples (HIP)
- Peace Builder Committee
- Reaching out to the wider Winnipeg Community providing supports

2.1 HONORING INDIGENOUS PEOPLE (HIP)

A Treaty Acknowledgement statement is read at the beginning of all our meetings:

“We acknowledge that we are meeting on Traditional Land of the First Nations, Treaty One Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. We recognize that the clean water we are drinking is sourced from the Shoal Lake 40 First Nation. We are committed to reconciliation”



To promote and further reconciliation efforts particularly among the youth, we are honouring indigenous people by supporting their educational efforts and encouraging all Rotarians to be aware of indigenous issues, history and culture.

2.1.1 Music Equals

A number of our partner communities requested support for music programs. We connected with an organization called MUSIC EQUALS, an arm of the MB Conservatory of Music and Arts, for advice and support. Working in collaboration with them we have purchased and sent guitars to 2 communities for after school programs. The organization is providing us with an instructor who is offering virtual lessons to the students in those communities. We are in the process of providing guitars to a third partner community.

Music Equals also offers a program for parents and toddlers called “Baby Beats”. We are currently testing out this program virtually in one of the communities and plan to expand into other communities in the future.

We are now in conversation with them about the possibility of offering indigenous drumming activities for some of our communities.

2.1.2 One Pallet One Community

Thanks to the hard work of fellow community members Rotarians, Peter and Ankita, we responded to a request from another of our partner communities for hygiene supplies. A pallet of these supplies was shipped to Pauingassi via Northway Air.



In addition, Co-Chair Peter, in response to a request from our friends from Pauingassi, put together a shipment of hockey equipment, along with a skate sharpener, and sent it off to the community by air.

2.1.3 Winter Clothing



Our annual collection of winter clothing was very successful and we were able to send 87 boxes of gently used clothing to 5 different communities. In addition, thanks to the efforts of Rotarian Rob Tisdale, the St Andrew’s Society of Winnipeg collected an additional 3 boxes of clothing which we shipped to the community of Tadoule Lake. As always, we also collected gently used skates and hockey equipment. There were a number of boxes of equipment and 8 large bags full of skates. The equipment went to Garden Hill

and the skates to Split Lake. After the shipment of winter clothing was received and distributed in the communities, we received a call from one community saying that a number of youth were in great need of winter jackets but were not able to get any from the shipment that we sent. We procured and sent the jackets for these students.



2.1.4 Technology Programs

Thanks to Rotarian Larry Schmidt who introduced us to a company who had 40 robotics kits to donate, we were able to arrange for a teacher from Winnipeg School Division to travel to Oxford House to conduct 3 days of exciting workshops with the teachers and children. The kits were left in the community. We are continuing with our efforts to find more such opportunities for our partner communities.

2.1.5 Hockey Equipment



There is a very great demand for hockey equipment in our partner communities. We have been working with a generous organization called Their Opportunity, located in Ontario, who very kindly delivered large shipments of hockey equipment to three of our partner communities in the Island Lakes area. We purchased skate sharpeners for these communities.

2.1.6 Chrome Books

We responded to a request from St Theresa Point for 20 Chromebooks for a program they wanted to offer for students who were having difficulty in school. We have provided 12 of the Chromebooks and are in the process of acquiring the remaining 8.



2.1.7 Running and Reading Program

The indigenous-related after-school Running and Reading program involving the Seven Sacred Teachings has now been instituted in St Theresa Point. We have been successful in obtaining a book vending machine from the organization, Start2Finish, which runs the program. The machine will be kept fully stocked with books with indigenous content. Students who participate regularly in the program will be rewarded with a book of their choice at the end of each month.

2.1.8 Baby Blankets, Clothing and Quilts



We have been working in collaboration with a generous group of women called St Saviour’s Threads of Hope who sew various items that we request for our partner communities. We provide the required materials and they produce the clothing, etc. They recently made a large quantity of clothing for the youngest children. We had these sent to three communities via an organization called Live Different who travel up north



over the winter roads to offer support programs to the youth in northern communities.

This group of women also made 100 quilts which were part of our bedding supplies for the beds we had built and sent up north.

2.1.9 Bunk Beds #2



Following the success of our first bed building initiative for indigenous communities, in collaboration with our partner organization, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, we had 50 beds built and sent over the winter road to Bunibonibee (formerly known as Oxford House) complete with mattresses, pillows, sheets, and quilts. The process of assembling and installing the beds in the homes is almost complete. We will continue to raise the funds

necessary to expand this wonderful initiative. Any ideas about businesses, organizations, etc who might be interested in sponsoring one of these builds would be most welcome.





2.1.10 Student Opportunities

As always, we have recruited and registered 2 indigenous students who attended the Rotary Adventures in Citizenship program to be held from May 25th to 28th in Ottawa. The students are from Garden Hill.

In addition, we recruited 2 indigenous students to attend our Rotary Adventures in Human Rights program which is held at the Museum of Human Rights in August of each year.

We also supported HIP national’s youth initiative which brought together indigenous and non-indigenous youth for a week-long learning and sharing experience.

2.1.11 Literacy

We continued our partnership with the national literacy organization, United for Literacy, to offer early literacy activities in 5 of the communities. This involved the hiring of 2 staff in each community as well as providing a wide selection of books and materials which were left for the families at the end of the program. <https://www.unitedforliteracy.ca/Manitoba>



Part of our literacy initiatives consisted of shipping large quantities of books to 2 more communities for distribution to the students and their families. This was done with the invaluable assistance of Chris Melnick and Share the Magic. We will now begin to focus on assisting our partner communities in their efforts to equip their libraries with up to date indigenous related materials.

2.1.12 Christmas Toys

We received requests for Christmas toys from two of our partner communities, St Theresa Point and Bloodvein. Community members travelled to Winnipeg where we accompanied them on a shopping spree. In St Theresa Point, Santa rode his skidoo from house to house delivering the presents to wideeyed children.

2.1.13 Sewing Machines

Three years ago, we worked in partnership with an organization called Soaring Circle who provided one of our partner communities, Shamattawa, with 8 beautiful Janome sewing machines along with a large quantity of materials such as leather, fleece, etc. At the time we had a similar request from our friends in St Theresa Point. We





continued to stay in touch with our friends from Soaring Circle and, in March, we were able to fly in a gift of 10 Janome sewing machines along with several boxes of sewing material.

Submitted by Rotarian Strini Reddy

2.2 PEACE BUILDER COMMITTEE

Promotion of peace building activities throughout Winnipeg. The **Rotary Club of Winnipeg Peace Builder Committee** is an inspirer and facilitator of a grassroots movement working together for positive peace locally, nationally and internationally. The Peace Builder Committee is committed to a vision, mission and set of values that encourage, facilitate and inspire peace and goodwill. Website www.peacedays.ca

Eleanor Roosevelt once said “It isn’t enough to talk about peace, one must believe in it. And it isn’t enough to believe in it, one must work at it.” And much ongoing work is required. Today, 10’s of millions of people are displaced as a result of conflict, violence, persecution, and human rights violations.

Each year, our club seeks to inspire, promote and facilitate grassroots understanding, goodwill, peace and compassionate actions through our Peace Days festival. Peace Days is a space that’s been created to educate and inspire people who want to build a culture of peace through conversations, relationships and actions that help promote positive peace.

The 2024 Peace Days festival kicked off with the Charter for Compassion event, held on September 11th and 12th, where Marilyn Turkovitch, the Executive Director of the Charter for Compassion, provided an inspiring talk on the ongoing work of the Charter for Compassion, and Winnipeggers discussed the potential for Winnipeg to become a chartered member. An enthusiastic group of over 50 people attended on the 11th and about 60 people attended the discussion on the 12th. The event received coverage in the Winnipeg Free Press, CJOB and CBC on the Morning Show, and interest in moving Winnipeg forward to becoming a Charter for Compassion City was strengthened as a result of the event.

This was followed by the 11th annual Elementary School Peace Walk at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights on September 13th, attended by hundreds of students and teachers. The theme of this year’s Peace Walk was ‘What About Us’ and featured a musical performance of the theme song by Compass from Collège Miles MacDonell Collegiate, and a captivating Indigenous dance performance by Buffy Handel and her dance ensemble. And as in previous years, it is always inspiring to see the students carrying their signs, shaking their noise makers, shouting out Peace slogans while joyfully holding hands as they march around the museum.





A video from the event can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GbRERx7kfsg>

Another notable event was Women's Unity For Peace hosted by Manitoba Women for Women of South Sudan on September 28, 2024. This event brought together members of Winnipeg's Sudanese community, Rotarians, and others to learn about the great work done to help refugees and returnees affected by the conflicts in Sudan using funds from last year's fundraiser, in which our club was a partner. This gathering also focused on sharing ideas about building a more peaceful future. Exciting news was also shared: Manitoba Women For Women has officially received charitable status from the CRA



And the 2024 Peace Days festival concluded with the 7th annual Peace and Harmony Networking Event organized by Winnipeg Peace Builders Toastmasters and held on November 10. This annual gathering provides an enriching opportunity for immigrants and refugees to network, socialize, and celebrate the Peace Days 365 festival of 2024. The event featured cultural dance, music, and other entertainment, fostering connections among professionals, immigrants, and refugees while offering delicious ethnic snacks. Approximately 50 attendees joined in the celebrations

Greetings were shared by President Frank and Maysoun Darweesh, Program Director for IRCOM, delivered a powerful keynote speech. Musical performances were provided by One Voice One Team. Three cultural dance groups performed, adding vibrant energy to the event, and a group discussion on a peace-related topic encouraged participation and reflection. Additionally, a yoga demonstration offered a moment of mindfulness for all in attendance.

Submitted By Rotarian Brent Jorowski



2.3 REACHING OUT TO THE WIDER WINNIPEG COMMUNITY

We engage with the wider community during the year, meeting specific need and requests as we are able.

2.3.1 PRIDE Parade



For the third year in a row, Rotary participated in the Pride Parade on June 1st. Rotary was showcasing our commitment to “**Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**”. Participants included Rotarians, friends. Vickar Ford provided a brand new Vehicle and driver for our banners and supplies.



2.3.2 Water Station at the Manitoba Marathon



This event is organized annually by Rotarian John McClellan and his two daughters, Wendy & Shannon who are great organizers. We thank Rotarian John as he has been doing this for over 30 years.

2.3.3 The Satellite Club and Oak Table

This event was held on January 24, 2024 at Augustine United Church, at 444 River Ave. This event was organized by our Satellite Rotary Club. The entertainment was our Humberto Dantes, Cathy Rayer, Grant Simpson and the ECCO Choir Co-Directed by Rotarian Jorrel Camuyong. The Satellite club raised \$8,000.



Oak Table is a community outreach organization. <https://oaktable.ca/>

The Satellite Rotarians also supported the Oak Table staff by serving the roughly 100 lunch attendees at the shelter and assisted with preparations for an overnight stay for those who needed a bed for the night. This is a project that is needed by both young and old in our community. We had the opportunity to meet a young mom with a 4 month old baby, young men and some elderly folks as well using the resources provided by the shelter. They were all grateful for the warmth and nourishment provided.

2.3.4 Volunteering at Harvest Manitoba

In this past years we volunteered at Harvest three times with Rotarians, Rotaractors, friends and family. It is not only an opportunity to assist Harvest but also a time to get to know each other and share the Rotary experiences and programs we are engaged in.



2.3.6 Habitat for Humanity

Our third build with Habitat for Humanity took place in August with a team of Rotarians and Rotaractors, some of whom had never held a hammer or hammered a nail. All was good as they learned some new skills, worked hard and had a wonderful day. Thanks to Rotarian Juhi Joshi for organizing the day.





3. YOUTH SERVICES

3.1 RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards)



Our Club was able to sponsor 2 young women, Moyo and Lore. Part of Moyo ‘s report:

“Through RYLA, I developed crucial leadership skills, such as decision-making and conflict resolution. My communication abilities improved, and I learned how to collaborate more effectively with others. These skills have helped me become more confident and proactive in various areas of my life. The skills and experiences from RYLA have been instrumental in my personal growth. I’ve applied what I learned to school projects, activities, and in my interactions with others. The confidence and skills I gained have

made a noticeable difference in my approach to challenges”

Also from Lore “RYLA gave me confidence and showed me that I can be a leader, even though I’ve always seen myself as more of a follower. I’m grateful to Rotary for sponsoring me, and I look forward to applying what I’ve learned in my school and community. Leadership is a team effort, and together, we can make a difference.”

These programs are so important to enable youth to develop leadership skills, team building, and effective communication.



3.2 ROTARY ADVENTURES IN CITIZENSHIP

Our club was very pleased to send two students to the adventures in Citizenship program held in Ottawa in May for 4 days. Two indigenous youth, Bronson and Jayla attended. They will present to the club in the fall.

3.3 ROTARY ADVENTURES IN HUMAN RIGHTS



Rotary Adventures in Human Rights, started in 2014 and ran in 2024 from August 10 to 16. The goal and mandate of RAHR is to provide students with the opportunity to better understand human rights by exploring themes such as gender equity, Indigenous perspectives, genocide, racism, discrimination, othering, sustainability, positive peace, value based leadership, immigration and refugee status, when rights are denied and more!

At the end of the program, students will have the opportunity to create an action plan that they can implement in their school or community.



With their new found insight into human rights and peace building, students will be encouraged to continue their peace journey as changemakers in their communities.

Applicants had to submit an essay about themselves, explaining why they should be part of the program, what they hoped to learn, and the impact they want to make in their communities. Twenty four students from across Canada were in Winnipeg in August at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights to learn about human rights, through a program that encourages young people to think about how they can incorporate awareness about those rights in their own communities. They also visited the Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba and served lunch for community members in Winnipeg's Central Park.



3.4 MUNA (MODEL UNITED NATIONS ASSEMBLY)

The 68th Rotary Club of Winnipeg Model United Nations Assembly was held completed (May 2-3, 2025). At the opening ceremonies, very meaningful greetings were received from The Manitoba Lieutenant Governor, The US Consul General, the Minister of Education, a representative from the City of Winnipeg and Rotary Club President Frank Cosway.



The Theme for MUNA 2025 was Adaptation and Shared Responsibility

67 Delegations (that's 2 senior high school students per delegation) each representing an assigned country debated 2 resolutions. For months prior to the MUNA proceedings the delegations are guided by their teachers to prepare for MUNA. 35 teachers/counsellors also attended.

Delegations were from schools in Winnipeg, Kenora, Dauphin, Flin Flon, Neepawa, Brandon, Dryden, Shelbrook SK and Prince Alberta. Many of these delegations are supported by local Rotary Clubs. Out



of town delegations and their counsellors stayed in the Concord Hall Residence at Canadian Mennonite University where all the MUNA proceedings took place.

Each delegation is to come prepared to present their nation’s assessment on how they will adapt and stand accountable for their contributions to solving the 2 resolutions:

- #1. The refugee crisis, and
- #2. The growing demand for food production and its equitable distribution.



At the closing ceremony 2 Awards are given. These awards are named after 2 Rotarians who have for many years been instrumental in the development of MUNA:

The Bert Friesen Award is for the best Prepared Delegation, and The Rais Khan Award is for the Most Diplomatic Delegation

The MUNA Team consists of Rotarians Jerry Storie and Jane Markesteyn and are assisted by a team of dedicated, creative and inspiring university students, many of whom are former MUNA delegates and led by MUNA 2025 president Akbar Imran.

As you can see that over the past 68 years Rotary Club of Winnipeg’s MUNA has been a valuable educational experience for hundreds of students, preparing them to succeed in their future endeavours.

After 68 years, the future of MUNA as a Rotary Club of Winnipeg project is looking for new leadership. Jerry and Jane are both “retiring” Over the years, there have been many of our clubs Rotarians who have volunteered their time and talents to support and build MUNA into what it is today.

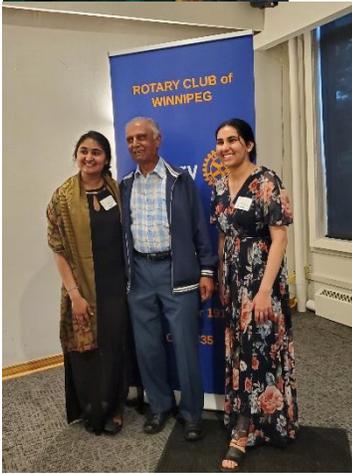
Submitted by Rotarian Jerry Storie

If you are interested in helping to continue this important Youth Program please contact frankcosway@mts.net (Chair of Youth Services)

3.5 ROTARACT

Our Rotaractors at the University of Manitoba and University of Winnipeg were active this year and learned more about Rotary and its reach around the world. Our club sponsored 4 Rotaractors to attend the District Conference in Russell Manitoba in April and the Rotary International Convention in Calgary in June. These were such exciting events for these young women.

Plans are in progress for a Rotaract Club at the Université de Saint Boniface.



3.6 INTERACT

An Interact club is a Rotary-sponsored club for young people ages 12-18 who want to develop leadership skills, serve their communities, and promote international understanding. Members organize at least two projects annually—one for their school or community and another for international goodwill—and benefit from opportunities to make new friends, connect with leaders, and discover new cultures.



We had presentations from the Glenlawn and Fort Garry Collegiates Interact Clubs and they were so inspiring.



3.7 BUILDING BEDS

This is the third year we have partnered with Sleep in Heavenly Peace to build beds so that “no child sleeps on the floor”. Jim Theissen, the director of the Winnipeg chapter has been a great friend and wonderful person to work with. 40 volunteers are needed for every bed build and Rotarians, Rotaractors, friends and family participate. No skills or tools are required as everything is provided. In 4 hours we can build the bed frames for 50 beds. Beds are provided to families in need and include the mattress, pillow, sheets and a quilt. Thanks to Rotarian Frank Cosway for leading this activity.

In 2024-25 we conducted 3 bed builds -150 beds- and one delivery and installation event. 50 of the beds build were sent to Bunibonibee Cree nation. This is a very concrete projects and engages many of our members, Rotaractors and friends



3.8 SPIRIT HORSE

Spirit Horse initiative is an indigenous led grassroots organisation, with a focus on healing through cultures, ceremony, pro social community engagement and healthy positive activism focusing on healing intergenerational traumas. Spirit Horse is working with 225 indigenous youth, employing 28 therapists within the inner city of Winnipeg and surrounding area.



Our Club has supported Spirit Horse with several initiatives including purchase of equipment to produce music, boxing equipment and support to the Circle of Unity fund day at St John’s Park. Spirit Horse focuses on support to youth through Action Therapy.



They also offer Drum Making and drumming classes and several of our members and Rotaractors participated in this very interesting and challenging event.





3.9 PITIKWÉ SKATE PARK

We supported their summer outreach program as some of their summer staff went to other skate parks in the city to work with the youth on better skating techniques and tricks. We continued to support the Pitikwé Skate park with a donation to their Christmas dinner. Many families came to the facility to have a dinner of Chinese food as that is what they wanted.

Report from the organizer: “This year, the Rotary Club Downtown sponsored the 2nd Annual Free Pitikwé Holiday Skate, which was a resounding success! The park welcomed close to 40 attendees for an afternoon filled with festive cheer, fun, and community spirit. The event ran from 12 pm to 4 pm, offering everyone the chance to celebrate the season in a warm and welcoming environment.

The Rotary Club Downtown generously sponsored the feast and the festive gift bags. Each bag was thoughtfully packed with personal self-care items and treats, ensuring everyone left with a little extra holiday joy. We are also grateful for the three amazing volunteers, whose time and dedication made this day possible.

Every gift bag was given out during the event, and at the end of the session, all leftover food and treats were shared with the participants, spreading the holiday spirit even further”

Submitted by Rotarian Frank Cosway





4. WORLD COMMUNITY SERVICES

4.1 SOUTH AFRICA PROJECTS

4.1.1 Rotary Club of Hillcrest

The Global Grant Project with our partner RC Hillcrest in collaboration with Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust is proving to be very successful. It is intended to train 3 cohorts of unemployed women in the



remote villages to set up and run their own micro agri-enterprises so that they can earn a sustainable income from the sale of seasonal vegetable seedlings within their own communities and beyond. The training of the first 2 cohorts has been successfully completed and the training of the last cohort will begin in September with a scheduled end date of early December.

We are in conversation with RC Hillcrest about the possibility of replicating this valuable initiative in other remote villages in the Valley of Thousand Hills.

As well, a Village for the Deaf has requested help with alleviating their water challenges. We will be discussing the possibility of replicating our very successful past initiatives to address this problem in two of our partner Children's Villages - iKhetelo and Lily of the Valley.

4.1.2 Rotary E-Club One of South Africa

We have not yet been able to submit the revised version of the application for the Global Grant project to replicate our past successful project to pump clean spring water from the valley to a tank at the top of the hill where the villagers reside in the community of Taweni. The Regional Grants Officer has requested a great deal of information that was not required in our previous application. This is taking time and adding to the costs of the project. Our partners in S.A. are working hard to gather the additional information and we are in the process of raising the additional funds that will be required. We are optimistic that the final submission will be made within the next 3 months.

4.1.3 Survival Gardens Project

Once we reached and surpassed our goal of 1000 Survival Gardens kits requests kept coming in from various organizations who were helping remote village communities to more easily access clean water for personal use as well as for growing their own food. We have now provided an additional 400 SG kits and there are many more requests still waiting to be filled. Our club continues to provide the funding for the tools, seeds, seedlings, fertilizer, etc. while our partners, the Hippo Roller Foundation in BC, provides the hippo rollers.



The challenge of obtaining hippo rollers in a timely fashion from the manufacturer in South Africa led the HR Foundation to explore other alternatives. They are in communication with a generous sponsor who has offered to fund the manufacturing of their own hippo rollers.

It appears as though this initiative will come to fruition in the not too distant future making the access to hippo rollers much easier.



4.1.4 Partnership with RC Atlantis

The publicity surrounding our Survival Gardens project led to a call from the president of the RC Atlantis in the Western Cape province in South Africa. This is a small club that is doing commendable work on various fronts. One of their major focuses is supporting their neighbourhood schools in their efforts to grow their own nutritious food for their school lunch programs. We have connected them with our fellow Rotarians at RC Hillcrest and are providing them with support for their projects.



4.2 DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



Last fall, Rotarian Bagula Namakobwa visited the war-torn areas of Eastern Congo and reported on the devastating conditions of the refugees including members of his own family. Basic needs, including food and medical supplies were desperately needed. While Bagula was there we communicated with our fellow Rotarians at RC Bukavu-Umoja and, together, they provided us with a list of the

most pressing needs. Together with our U of M Rotaract Club we were able to send a contribution of \$5000 to purchase some of the immediate needs.





4.3 MCIC DEVELOPMENT FUND PROJECT

Manitoba Government Matching Grant Program (MGMGP) 2025-26, coordinated by the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation (MCIC) (presented by Rotarian Cameron Zywina, Satellite Club)

Project Grow, in South Africa, has been approved for one year (01/April/2025 to 31/March/2026), with a primary focus on nutrition/food security for preschool children. This is implemented with our local partners: the Rotary Club of Hillcrest and the Zero2Five Trust fund

Thirty Early Childhood Development centre-based, climate-resilient food gardens will enhance the cognitive and physical development of 1000 under 5-year-old children in 5 rural and marginalized communities in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa by feeding them nutritious meals made from local, climate change-resilient crops grown in 30 gardens at the Early Childhood Development centres. 10 unemployed YOUTH will be trained in nutrition, WASH, food garden training and children's activities in the garden to ensure long lasting, thriving food gardens.

4.4 REQUEST FROM MINNEAPOLIS RC AND RC KITCHENER CONESTOGA

We received a request to support two medical projects in Ukraine in partnership with Minneapolis Rotary Club and Rotary Club Ukraine Sunrise Passport on rebuilding healthcare facilities. We discussed our desire to start supporting these initiatives by contributing from RCW as well as encouraging individual donations with tax receipts provided.

4.5. TWO POTENTIAL PROJECTS IN REFUGEE CAMP, UGANDA

(presented by Dhruvi Shah and Divya Sharma, Rotaract Club of the University of Manitoba): Partner with NGO New Talent for the Best Future, Isingiro District, Nakivale Refugee Camp, Uganda in expanding and providing water (WASH) supply and hygiene training for the refugee settlement, prioritizing women and girl youth 15 years of age and older; and in developing education, literacy and job training about skills, farming, sewing, and education programs.

Dhruvi Shah and Divya Sharma met with WASH experts at the Rotary International Convention in Calgary (May 2025) to discuss the interest of the Rotaract Club of the UM in supporting either or both of these potential projects. They found out that a previous WASH project has already been supported in the refugee camp, but in an area located in Kenya, so there is opportunity to learn lessons from that initiative.

Dhruvi and Divya also participated in a Zoom meeting with key stakeholders of the refugee camp. There are 150 families in the proposed target area, including many households headed by single mothers. Educational and training needs relate to health, hygiene, education and food security.

If they proceed with either or both of these proposed projects, they would like to invite other Rotaract clubs and the Satellite Club to participate with them.



4.6 SUPPORT TO DAADAB REFUGEE CAMP

This is a long standing relationship and every year we attend the annual dinner and provide support to this largest refugee camp in the world. This past year the request was for solar panels so they could use the facilities in the evening.

Report Submitted by Rotarian Strini Reddy

5. FUNDRAISING

Funds were raised for many projects throughout the year. These donations came from Rotarians, our club and others, friends, family and businesses. A few examples below. Thanks to all who donated to many of our fundraisers.

5.1 POLIO PLUS CAMPAIGN



Thanks to Rotarians and Friends who participated in the Bike-a-Thon organized by Rotarian Tchen. Fun was had by all.



5.2 HOLIDAY GIVING

Each year the community services committee chooses a community program/organization in need of support for our Holiday giving. This choice is made in early October. In 2024 December our club collected and purchased craft items for Big Brothers and Big Sisters Club of Winnipeg.

5.3 HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Our potluck dinner was held in March to raise funds, for our participation fee, for the build that is planned for August, It was a successful evening with tasty food shared and enjoyed by all.



6. PUBLIC RELATIONS/COMMUNICATIONS

The newsletter as a major means of communication was published 6 times in the past Rotary year: November, December, February, March, May and June. The club is active on social media including Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and our Rotary website. We do have a Rotary Club WhatsApp so please join if you have not yet.

Check out the YouTube channel we have to hear and see videos of past meetings you may have missed.

Website updates have been completed and are ongoing.

www.winnipegrotary.org

Follow Us On Social Media:



7. CLUB SERVICES

Throughout the year we have held several “social” events., an opportunity to get to know each other, share ideas and have fun. Our twice a month dinners are always delicious, a chance to get to know each other, share project highlights and learn from interesting speakers. More photos in section 9 of this report.

Our speakers as suggested by members have been very informative and educational. Our Zoom meeting speakers are recorded, with permission, and appear on our YouTube Channel.

Our Meeting place for in-person meetings has been held at the Winnipeg Winter Club on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 6 pm. A notice is sent out before the meeting by our administrator Sandy Allen. On the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays we met by Zoom at 7:00 pm. The 4th Wednesday of the month was often a social evening. We are always looking for suggestions for this fellowship evening.



Several outstanding speakers in the past year were : Juanita Hulety on International Women’sD. Sheila North, telling us of her life challenges and successes and Gordon Goldsbrough, the Abandoned Manitoba expert.



8. MEMBERSHIP

The club was very pleased to welcome 13 new members during the year. The Satellite club welcomed 7 new members. We are growing.

There have been other inquiries and some persons have attended our zoom meetings and social events to meet our club members, hear about our programmes and projects to determine if Rotary is a fit for them. We are also very grateful to those who remain “Friends” of Rotary and participate when they are able.

Paul Harris Award was presented to Rotarian Philis Akunne

Bagula Namakobwa received the Rotarian of the year award for his work in DRC





June 30, 2025 our club had 60 Active in the main club + 1 Honorary + 13 Active in the Satellite Club.

Members are encouraged to seek out opportunities within the club as a way of contributing their skills and talents as well as developing leadership opportunities.

A YEAR IN PHOTOS

AUGUST Habitat Build, Rotary Adventures in Human Rights and Rotary Picnic, Farewell to Chicha





SEPTEMBER Peace Days, and Bed Build





OCTOBER Polio Campaign, Collecting Winter Clothing, Fund Raising for South Africa Projects, Satellite Club





A Fundraising Evening with Musician Alex Maher
On behalf of the South Africa Education Support Project

A musical performance with light snacks, cash bar, and minimal speechifying...

October 16th, 7pm-9:30pm
Antoine Gaborieus Hall,
Centre Culturel Franco-Manitobain,
340 Provencher

Tickets \$40 (18.20 tax deductible receipt)
Contact: paxtonra@myrmts.net

For more information about Alex Maher:
<https://www.alexmahermusic.com/>

For more about SAESP:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jpBmJ3YL0WA>
www.facebook.com/group/SAESPManitoba

The South Africa Education Support Project is an initiative of the Winnipeg Rotary Community Service Fund Inc.
Registration: 1109 1418 880061



NOVEMBER Joint Remembrance Day Event, Pitikwé Launching their Second Year, Volunteering at the Salvation Army Christmas Kettles





DECEMBER Holiday Meeting at Smitty's



JANUARY – Concert Supporting Oak Table, Beds Heading North

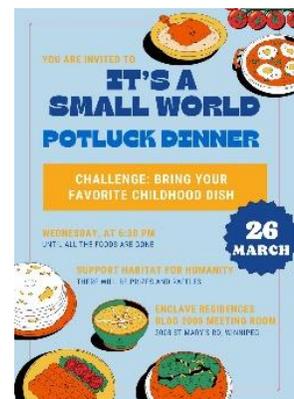


FEBRUARY Another Bed Build, Volunteering at Harvest, Our Rotary Anniversary





MARCH International Women’s Day, District Learning Seminar in Russell, Pot Luck Raising Funds for Habitat for Humanity





APRIL 120th Anniversary of Rotary International at Government House, Bed Build





MAY Model United Nations Assembly, Volunteering at Harvest, Interact Presentation, Volunteering at St John's Park Celebration





JUNE Pride Parade, Dinners Together Throughout the Year





Rotary Club of Winnipeg Active projects in 2024 - 25

	Project Title	Description of Project	Project Champion
YOUTH PROJECTS/PROGRAMS			
1	Rotary Adventures in Canadian Citizenship	200 senior high school students from across Canada have a 4 day trip to Ottawa to meet politicians and see the capital. Our club sponsors two students	Strini Reddy
2	Rotary Adventures in Human Rights	Expose 20 youth leaders to Human Right issues in collaboration with the Canadian Museum for Human Rights for a 6 day program in Winnipeg. Our Club sponsored 3 students in 2024	Rob Tisdale / Juhi Joshi/ Taiseer Sharief
3	RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Assembly)	To encourage, assist and train selected youth to become responsible citizens and develop new leadership skills selected by clubs within District 5550. Held in August with two age groups . We sponsored 3 students.	Jorrel Camuyong
4	MUNA (Model United Nations Assembly)	Global citizenship, consensus-building and negotiation skills for high school students. Held in Winnipeg in April for 3 days with students from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Northern Ontario and the USA, 67 teams participated in April 2025	Jerry Storie/ students as organising committee
COMMUNITY SERVICES			
5	Frontier College Literacy Program	Aboriginal Literacy Camp programs in Manitoba with several in Winnipeg, Held during July and August	Handled by the HIP committee
6	Peace Days	Peace Days is a space that’s been created to promote and inspire understanding, goodwill and compassion locally, nationally, and internationally, it supports and motivates people who want a culture of peace and compassion Held in September	Handled by the Peace Builders Committee, Brent Jorowski/Gary Sneft
7	HIP (Honouring Indigenous Peoples)	Working together with at least 10 northern and remote communities in Manitoba to promote literacy and foster reconciliation. Collection of Books, Sports equipment, winter clothing and other needed interventions.	Handled by the HIP Committee
8	Christmas/Holiday Giving	Each October a holiday giving project is selected. Members are asked to become involved	Jeannette Brigit
9	Polio Plus	This is the End Polio Now Campaign in October each year to raise funds for polio vaccine around the world.	Tchen Koffi
WORLD SERVICES			
10	Survival Gardens/Hippo Roller	Provision of water carrier, garden tools, seeds, fertilizer and instructions. Women can grow food to sustain themselves and their family	Strini Reddy and WS committee



ACTIVE PROJECTS 2024-25 Cont'd

	Project Title	Description of Project	Project Champion
11	Beyond Subsistence (South Africa)	Similar to the Survival Gardens but in a different area of South Africa	Strini Reddy
12	Zero to five	Nutritional supports to young children in Kazulu Natal SA	Strini Reddy
13	Dabaab Refugee Fund	Elementary education in the refugee camp	Strini Reddy
COMMUNITY SUPPORT			
14	Oak Table Support	Annual concert and fund raising to support all the good work done by Oak table	Satellite Club
15	Pitikwe Skate Park	Funds provided for ramps and audio equipment, opportunities to volunteer, Christmas feast, summer teaching program	Frank/Nancy Cosway
16	Sleep in Heavenly Peace	Building beds for children in need in Winnipeg and in indigenous communities	Frank Cosway/Strini Reddy
17	Spirit Horse	Support to youth in the core of the city, Boxing club, music production, active counselling	Frank Cosway

In addition there are many intermittent volunteer opportunities as a group. For example volunteering at Manitoba Harvest, Bed Building with Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Building with Habitat for Humanity, walking with the Bear Clan, collecting and/or sorting and packing winter clothing, supporting the Salvation Army kettle campaign, watering and gardening at the Westminster Housing development and many others as we are requested.

