
NEWS RELEASE

Rotary Mobile Blood Collection Van in Action

Elgin Breakfast Rotary Club partners with Rotary Clubs in India

(Ratlam/India) May 1, 2022 — In keeping with the Rotary goal of helping those in need throughout the world, the Elgin Breakfast Rotary has helped provide a Mobile Blood Collection Van in Ratlam District, India. The Project was initiated by Elgin club member Nand Belani in partnership with the Ratlam Central Rotary Club. Nand said about the project, “India has the world’s largest shortage of blood, the poor rural villages of Ratlam are most particularly affected. This mobile collection unit will travel into these hard-to-reach villages across inhospitable terrain and road conditions.”

Currently it is difficult for those living in remote villages to take time off work and travel long distances to the one central blood collection point. The new Mobile Collection Van will help dispel myths about blood donation, such as blood donation is not safe and harmful for health. Donors are honored, given a certificate, and shown appreciation for their efforts. There are hopes that the Mobile Van and the new publicity will help create a mass movement amongst the population and other social organizations to penetrate society to give blood.

The Mobile Collection Van has been placed under the management of the Ratlam District Red Cross headquarters. The van is equipped with state-of-the-art blood collection machines, 2 donor beds, air conditioning, and a blood preserving machine with the ability to store up to 200 units of blood at one time. A total of \$35,000 was raised by various clubs and private donors to facilitate this purchase.

If you would like more information on Rotary and the community services we provide, you may reach out to club past-president, Alan Kirk, at 847-815-4895 or alankirk@me.com.

About Rotary

Rotary brings together a global network of volunteer leaders dedicated to tackling the world’s most pressing humanitarian challenges. Rotary connects 1.2 million members of more than 34,000 Rotary clubs in over 200 countries and geographical areas. Their work impacts lives at both the local and international levels, from helping families in need in their own communities to working toward a polio-free world. For more information, visit [Rotary](https://www.rotary.org).

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Photo Credits: (Nand Belani)

- 1) Elgin Breakfast Rotary Club Member Nand Belani and his wife Dr. Bharati Belani
- 2) Mobile Van Collection Van Dedication: L-R Ratlam Rotary Members: Dilip Majumdar, Dr. Gajendra Narang, Reba Majumdar, and Ritu Grover
- 3) Mobile Van Collection Van Dedication Ceremony: (No Names)
- 4) Example of publicity in India regarding the new Mobile Blood Collection Van.

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