

Community Impact

A Publication of the Rotary Club of Maraval

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President's Message

What a first quarter we have had!

We paved the way for so many 'first time' experiences for our Club namely:

- Our Club and Board Meetings are now 100% online via Zoom (we always have room for one more to join),
- Our District Governor Lisle Chase's official Club visit was done with our Rotaractors and AG Vindra Amar 100% virtually
- Our 1st fundraiser for the year was quite a success and done 100% virtually

As a Rotary Club, focused on providing in-person service to our charges, we have had to dig deep to ensure that what we set out to do, as a part of Rotary International, can be done as effectively as before. This has taken, and continues to demand, high amounts of innovation, resilience and risk taking of our Board and our members as we have never chartered these waters before.

Despite this, I am so very proud to be the President of our Rotary Club of Maraval and very thankful to our new Board for taking up the challenge so effortlessly, and responding in leading their respective committees in a way that is truly admirable and exemplary! Cheers to our outgoing leadership as we were also awarded the prestigious Rotary International Citation – Silver for 2019-2020 which speaks volumes to the great work that our Club undertakes!

Our Club continues to meet weekly with our new home being the Zoom platform, and that has allowed us to form new ties with fellow Rotary Clubs all over the world, namely the Rotary Club of Secunderabad West from India and Rotary Club of Metro New York City of USA. To our charges, we have made the commitment to continue working with you and to hear from you of the ways which your specific needs have changed due to the ongoing pandemic. We pride ourselves as being an organization that provides the right type of assistance at the right time.

Therefore, we have used this first quarter to chat with the Principals of the five (5) primary schools we assist in the Maraval and Rampanalga areas, to hear from them as to how the needs of their students have changed. We are therefore working with the Principals and teachers to ensure that the education received by these students, during this online teaching period, matches or even exceeds that which they are accustomed to in the physical classroom.

A similar exercise was done with the Women's Prison as we look forward to conducting our first ever virtual life skills seminar through our Service Projects Committee, and the help of Past President Dale Laughlin, Former Member of Parliament Patricia McIntosh, and a young woman who truly embodies what it means to make the most of your opportunities, Mrs. Meeca Sookoo-John.

2020-2021 will be a year like no other! However, like all other years, the Rotary Club of Maraval will continue to do its part to ensure that Rotary Opens Opportunities to all in need.



Giselle Holder
President 2020-2021
Rotary Club of Maraval

Rotary Club of Maraval donates to the Women's Prison



**Commissioner of Prison, Mr. Dennis Pulchan with Giselle Holder
President of The Rotary Club of Maraval**

On Friday 3rd July, 2020, the Rotary Club of Maraval (RCoM), through the kind sponsorship of the PeopleBridge Charitable Foundation and in partnership with Smith Robertson & Company Limited, donated feminine hygiene products for one hundred and fifty (150) female inmates at Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service.

The donation was received on behalf of the female inmates by the Commissioner of Prison, Mr. Dennis Pulchan, the Deputy Commissioner of Prison in the Programmes and Industry Department, Mr. Deopersad Ramoutar and Senior Superintendent of Prison in the Programmes and

Industry Department, Mr. Patrick King at the Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service Headquarters on Phillips Street, Port of Spain.

Mr. Pulchan expressed his heartfelt appreciation for the kind donation and acknowledged RCoM's long-standing relationship with the Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service. He made special mention of the RCoM's Past President Marie Dalton-Brown who has pioneered free eye testing and eye wear programme for the inmates at the Maximum Security Prison for twenty (20) years.



Rotary District Covid-19 Fundraiser- Rotary District 7030 pins



In July 2020, our Rotary District 7030 spearheaded a fundraiser initiative to assist with District wide COVID-19 relief through the sale of newly designed District pins. The design of the pin embodies the warmth of our Caribbean Rotary District comprising Rotary, Rotaract and Interact with the colours representing the unity of the Rotary organization.

Our Club supported this initiative with the purchase of twenty-two (22) pins.

Partnering with India's Rotary Club of Secunderabad West's Global Grant

The Rotary Club of Maraval joined with six (6) other Rotary Clubs based in USA and Italy to assist the Rotary Club of Secunderabad West of Rotary District 3150 in India with their global grant project which focused on the following:

1) **Transformation of 181 Government schools into 'Happy Schools'**. This project is targeted at providing essential infrastructure to Government schools that are poorly outfitted.

2) **A Mobile Cancer Detection Bus**. This will be used to help detect the early stages of cancer in rural villages and so reduce the mortality rate of those afflicted persons. With the use of the bus, the entire rural population of Telangana / Andhra states in India can be covered over a period of 2 to 3 years.

Our Club was pleased to assist the Rotary Club of Secunderabad West, India, in its efforts to provide critical assistance to those in need in their provinces.



Happy Schools
Happy Children
Happy World



Donation of Food Hampers to St. Ann's/Cascade Servol Life Centre

Our sister Club, the Rotary Club of Princes Town presented the Rotary Club of Maraval with ten (10) food hampers which were donated by Pricemart's Foundation, Price Philanthropies.

Our donation was further strengthened through the generosity of our Rotaract Club of Maraval who provided large bags of rice to add to the hampers

These hampers were distributed on 20th August 2020 to ten (10) families of students who were identified by the Principal of the Servol Life Centre.

We are very thankful to have partnered with both our sister Club, the Rotary Club of Princes Town and our Rotaract Club of Maraval for this worthwhile effort which benefitted families in need.



District Governor's Visit

On Saturday 22nd August, 2020 the Rotary and Rotaract Clubs of Maraval had the distinct pleasure of hosting our District Governor Lisle Chase of Rotary Club of Gros Islet, St. Lucia. Traditionally during their year, District Governors would travel throughout the 17 countries that make up Rotary District 7030 in the Caribbean, visiting over 70 Rotary and Rotaract Clubs in the process.

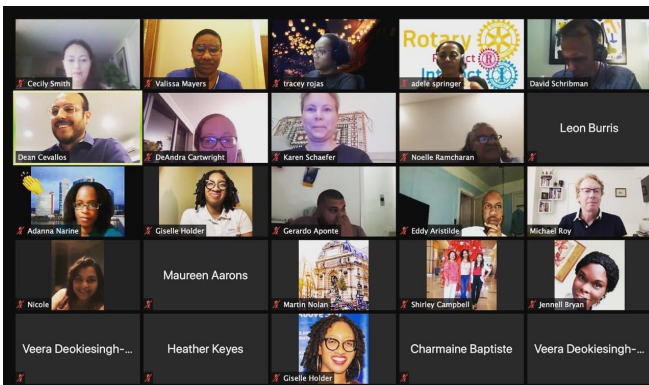
As expected, due to the COVID 19 pandemic, this year has brought some unique circumstances to many traditions, therefore, the visits were conducted - you guessed it! - virtually. Apart from the fact that we were in the comfort of our individual homes, the tone and conversation of the visit was what we were used to. Through our discussions, it became exceedingly clear why Lisle was selected as our Rotary District Governor. His passion for the ideals of Rotary and service to others is nothing short of inspiring.



DG Lisle Chase and Partner in Service (PIS) Maggiitha Chase

District Governor Lisle came prepared with a series of challenges for the various Clubs under his purview. These were considered to be of tremendous value and has the potential for success once executed. DG Lisle in his wisdom, also encouraged us to regard those limitations encountered this year as open doors to new opportunities. His vision is clearly revolutionary and we are grateful for his leadership in the wake of the "new normal".

Joint Meeting with the Rotary Club of Metro NYC



On Wednesday 23rd September, the Rotary Club of Maraval was hosted by the Rotary Club of Metro New York City (NYC) in our first ever joint meeting. This was a wonderful experience as both Presidents, President Giselle Holder of RC Maraval and President Dean Cevallos of RC Metro NYC shared presentations on their respective Clubs and disclosed their upcoming plans for the year.

The Rotary Club of Metro NYC has a wealth of diversity through its membership who hail from several Caribbean, Latin American and European countries. They were very pleased to connect with a Club in the Caribbean, and our Club members were equally excited to hear about the various projects they had accomplished over the years.

Immediate Past President Valissa Mayers of the Rotary Club of Metro NYC, who is a past Rotaractor of the Rotaract Club of POS West, was instrumental in organizing this joint effort. She announced that her Club's "Happy/Sad Dollar" funds for this meeting will be donated to the Annual Fund, in honour of the Rotaract Club of Maraval as they planned on becoming the first EREY (Every Rotaractor Every Year) Club in Rotary District 7030.

Cooking Extravaganza Fundraiser



The Rotary Club of Maraval (RCOM) held its first virtual fundraiser on Saturday 26th September as a Dinner Extravaganza hosted by well-known Chef Debbie Sardinha. Chef Extraordinaire, former first female Executive Chef of Hilton Hotel, winner of several awards and owner of the exquisite restaurant 54 Saddle in Maraval, are just some of the accomplishments of this remarkable Chef. We were therefore ecstatic when the well-renowned Chef Debbie agreed to be a part of this novel idea.

As a non profit organization needing to continue fundraising for its projects, we recognized that the social distancing requirements to combat the spread of the COVID-19 virus had changed everything including the fundraising landscape. It was therefore necessary to transform our planned fundraising events by taking them online. The first innovative plan was the exciting Dinner Extravaganza where Chef Debbie guided participants to prepare a meal virtually, lay the table and win a prize. All the displays of the meals were amazing in an atmosphere of fine dining and Chef Debbie as chief judge, selected three (3) persons for prizes for their outstanding presentations. Congratulations to Veera Deokiesingh & Family, Catherine Kumar & her team, and Kristin & Paul Scholl participating all the way from Virginia, USA.

Needless to say, this event attracted over 150 participants locally, regionally and internationally resulting in a most fun filled event. The camaraderie was delightful, the dishes looked sumptuous and the feedback was: Let's do this again!

Sincere thanks to the Chair of our Fundraising Committee, Ms. Paula Baldwin who led this venture, members of the Rotary family, the technical staff, Chef Debbie for her guidance, patience and professionalism and all our well wishers, for contributing to the resounding success of this our inaugural virtual fundraiser. The proceeds from this fundraiser will be donated to our literacy projects in the Maraval community.

