

Community Impact

A Publication of the Rotary Club of Maraval

Vol. 2 – Issue 1 – July-September, 2021



MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ADELE

Dear Friends,

Can you believe it? This newsletter heralds the end of the first quarter of the Rotary year.

Our Mission this year is **'To strengthen friendships and networks to move forward promoting peace and a brighter future for all'**.

Against a background of twenty-eight (28) years of existence, it is heartening to recognize charter members who are still very much active in Club activities. Indeed, this is one of our strengths and we benefit greatly from their experience and leadership.

Even with all the challenges faced in the last year, we have continued to grow and evolve and our vision is to see all members *'enthusiastic, eager and actively engaged'*. The underlying thread of friendship, peace and respect continues to connect us and to help make new connections

thus enabling the Club to grow stronger in its commitment to serve. District Governor Sonya Alleyne met with our Board of Directors virtually in September and inspired us with her encouraging thoughts on our progress so far.

Her emphasis on the need for us to fund projects in the seven areas of focus via Rotary and the Rotary Foundation is noted. We are therefore pleased to record the completion of projects in this quarter covering peace and conflict, COVID-19 pandemic relief and basic education and literacy. However, new ideas to help our communities are critical and so we would love to hear your suggestions for new initiatives for projects in water and sanitation, disease prevention, maternal and child health, business and economic development.

This year our Rotary International theme is 'Serve to Change Lives' introduced by our new RI President Shekhar Mehta from Calcutta, India. So how do we propose to do that! Well, we have always been eager to make positive changes in the lives of individuals and communities for many years. Our strength lies in our diverse membership and network of friends and sponsors, and our ability to see numerous possibilities and make solid plans to have these possibilities become realities.

There is always some way to help or 'serve' and I encourage all of you reading this newsletter to think how you can help. For some of you, it can be as easy as giving us a 'like' on our Facebook page and sharing our stories and events around your friends. Just want to make a donation no matter what amount? Then donate directly to the Rotary Club of Maraval (RCoM) or The Rotary Foundation or take part in our fun fundraising events. Want to be a volunteer? Come to our meetings and get more involved, then join our WhatsApp 'Friends of RCoM' group. And then if you decide to be a Rotarian of the RCoM and the Global Rotary family, please email us your contact details and we will respond promptly.

The Rotary Club of Maraval invites everyone to do more in whatever way you can to 'SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES'.

Hope to see you all soon, even if it's virtually..

A. Springer.

President Dr Adele Springer



Incoming Board 2021-2022 Rotary Club of Maraval



Adele Springer
President 2021-2022



Giselle Holder
Immediate
Past President



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Secretary



Janine de Silva
Membership



Kirwin Samuel
Club Administration



Adanna Narine
Service Projects



Ann Marie Narine
Public Relations



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Foundation



Mary Charles
Director at Large



Donna Callender – My Rotary Story

Hello! My name is Donna Callender. I am a retired secondary school teacher. I joined the Rotary Club of Maraval in the year 2007 and I have been an active member for the past fifteen years. I was invited to join the Club by Dr. Phellam Mc Sween, a former member of the Rotary Club. I decided to join the Rotary Club of Maraval because, for some time, I had been looking for an organization to get involved with, where I could participate in doing some form of community service and do some good in the world. The fact that the Rotary Club of Maraval was a club made up of mainly women was an added incentive. I had been aware of Rotary International, the organization, and the reputation they had developed over the years, as being one of the best service clubs in the world, with a serious commitment and dedication to providing help to countries and individuals in times of crisis. I wanted to be involved with an action-oriented group of people who had the same ideals as I did. Rotary provides an opportunity to serve our fellow human beings and to do a lot of good in the world.



Rotary has been a very rewarding experience for me because I have had the opportunity to work with the children at the Cascade Learning Center, helping them to develop their culinary skills and imparting to them the importance of good nutrition. As a former teacher, it always gives me great pleasure and satisfaction when my students show great interest in their work and excel.

Rotary has also been instrumental in providing wonderful opportunities for fellowship with other Rotarians, both at home and abroad. There are always invitations to visit other clubs and to share in their celebrations, or fundraising events, or family day activities. It is truly an amazing opportunity for meeting people and making lasting friendships.

Of course Rotary also helps to develop you professionally. There are many opportunities for growth and development as an individual, in public speaking and many other areas. I would recommend Rotary to everyone, especially if you love people and have a deep desire to serve and do good in the world.

4TH ANNUAL TOOLS FOR SCHOOL PROJECT

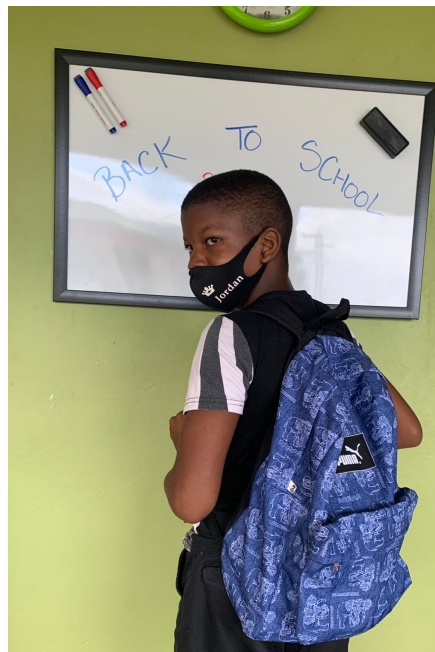
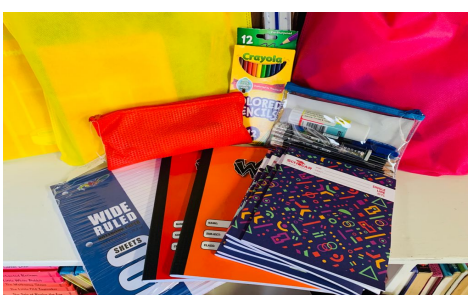
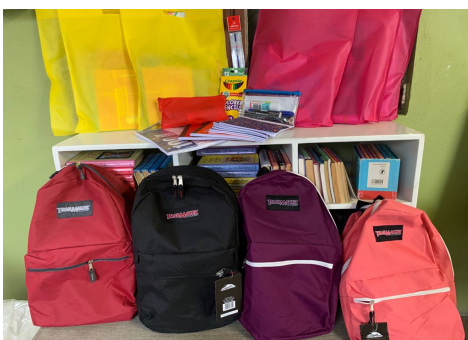
Copybooks! Notebooks! Pencils! Pens! Backpacks!

Check... Check... Check... Check!

“What if the cure for cancer is trapped inside the mind of someone who can’t afford an education?” With this thought in mind, the Rotary & Rotaract Clubs of Maraval embarked on its 4th Annual “Tools for School” Stationery Drive in a continuous effort to equip our vulnerable students with the tools that will enable them to build their confidence and self-esteem needed to be successful during their tenure at school and beyond.

We were overwhelmed by the generosity of internal and external supporters, who made contributions both in-cash and in-kind and which allowed us to meet and even exceed our goal of this effort in the various communities from Diego Martin to Rampanalgas. A total of 111 stationery packages were distributed and these consisted primarily of backpacks which were filled with stationery items including notebooks, copybooks, pencils, erasers, rulers, sharpeners, crayons and colored pencils. The sheer enthusiasm, excitement and gratitude expressed by our beneficiaries was indeed priceless and this resulted in a sense of worthwhile accomplishment on our part. But we did not stop there! We were able to go a step further by supporting our fellow Rotaractors and Rotarians in Tobago with their Back to School Initiatives.

The Rotary Club of Maraval sincerely thanks all sponsors and donors who shared our vision to empower the youth of our nation especially during this time when families are faced with financial burdens due to the onslaught of the Covid-19 Pandemic.





WE GOING PARAMIN – SCHOOL LIBRARY UPGRADE

Nestled in the scenic Maraval hills of the Northern Range is the agricultural village of Paramin, well known for its green seasonings and other produce. Paramin is also known for Christmas celebrations with the beautiful Parang music which is loved and enjoyed by all, and which is embodied in the popular Soca Parang tune “Paramin.”

The village is also home to the Paramin R.C. Primary School which the Rotary Club of Maraval has been supporting over the last few years. So, in an effort to assist the Principal and teachers to encourage students to embrace a mindset of having a love for books thereby improving their literacy skills, the Club decided to upgrade the school library. Needless to say, the Principal, Mr. Camillus Olivier, was overjoyed and thanked the Club for “the upgrade of our library thus ensuring that it continues to be a gateway for the imaginations of our students.”

This is the second of two (2) school libraries upgrade completed by the Club this year (2021) and the third completion of a planned upgrade of five (5) school libraries. This is indeed an accomplishment against a backdrop of challenging times caused by a raging pandemic. But the Club continued to be resolute with its plans to make a difference in the communities it serves with the help of generous benefactors.

RBC (Trinidad and Tobago) Ltd is one such benefactor who was a co-sponsor of the Paramin school library upgrade and the Club sincerely thanks Ms. Hazel-Ann Marshall, Marketing Manager of RBC. Also, special thanks to the Let’s Read personnel who continue to do amazing work on the school libraries, and to our own Rotarian Joan of the Paperbased bookstore for providing books with the local content, prompting the Principal to remark that “with the addition of local Caribbean authors, the students can envision versions of themselves; one day realizing their dreams, because they have read about someone within their little niche of the world that has accomplished great things.”

The Rotary Club of Maraval is steadfast in its ongoing efforts to assist in improving the reading skills of students, as this is one of the basic tenets of literacy which will prepare them for successfully navigating the new norm of the digital environment.





President Adele Volunteers for COVID-19 Vaccination Drive

In response to the Ministry of Health's request to Rotarians for volunteers to assist with their massive vaccination drive against the spread of COVID-19, Dr. Adele Springer better known as our own President Adele, spared no thought in accepting the request. However, as a medical doctor, President of the very active Rotary Club of Maraval and with a family, time may have seemed to be a factor, but President Adele embodies the saying that **"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time they just have the heart."** So, on a daily basis, along with all her other obligations she would report to the NAPA site, to assist with the ongoing vaccination process and would also reach out to others to assist. In addition, using her medical experience, she would regularly provide salient information on the importance of getting the vaccine and would debunk misinformation about the vaccine.

As members of the Rotary Club of Maraval, we are indeed proud of her commitment to all aspects of volunteerism, and we pledge our support in all her endeavours during her tenure as our President by joining with her in living the following core values of the Rotary experience: ***Service Above Self and Serve to Change Lives***



President Adele at
NAPA Vaccine Site



This is Rotarian Kelly scribing
for Nurse Chow Fatt at the
Savannah as she jabs the
population with Astra Zeneca.



OUR ROTARACT CORNER

THE PEACE OF PORT OF SPAIN PROJECT

In February 2021, The Rotaract Clubs of Maraval and Central Port of Spain, embarked on a peacebuilding journey facilitated by the NewGen Peacebuilders for the first ever Rotaract Positive Peace Training. Issues of food insecurity, the importance of understanding the root cause of hunger and how the pillars of peace can be used to eradicate the hunger crisis were addressed. A significant component of the training was the completion of a Peace Action Project. For this project, our target group was the single mothers of Laventille due to their high-impact factor within their immediate household. Participants were carefully selected based on the recommendations received from The Loveuntil Foundation, one of the key partners in this project as they represent a beacon of hope in the community, based on the holistic approach they provide to the well-being of families with a special emphasis on health and education.

The project goals of “A Peace of Port of Spain” as a Community Service project rooted in the pillars of peacebuilding aim to:

- ✓ Respond to the needs of the single mothers within the community of Laventille.
- ✓ Provide agricultural training opportunities through a partnership with The Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries.
- ✓ Provide long term entrepreneurial opportunities through a partnership with NAMDEVCO facilitated by The Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries, whereby single mothers will have the opportunity of a selling space at the local farmer’s market under the brand of The Loveuntil Foundation.
- ✓ Provide access to tools and resources required to transform theoretical knowledge into real life gains through partnerships with our sponsors, such as The Loveuntil Foundation, FT Farfan, Thomson’s Garden Materials Limited, BPI Genethics Limited, Mr. Daniel Ali and Agriworld TT.

Essentially, this project aims to be more than a “quick fix”. It is designed to respond to real issues facing the community and improve the lives of community members. During this quarter, twelve (12) single mothers from the community of Laventille and seven (7) Rotaractors and Rotarians from the Rotaract and Rotary Club of Penal, were registered in the Home Gardening course facilitated by the Extension, Training and Information Services Division of The Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries. Practical sessions are earmarked for September 25 and 26 whereby all participants will receive home gardening containers, tools, seedlings, and other much needed resources to transform the knowledge gained in the virtual classroom setting into a hands-on agricultural experience.

Based on the project goals, the expected outcomes are to:

1. Improve access to nutritious food for the residents of Laventille.
2. Empower the women within the community of Laventille and provide an income-generating opportunity to enable them to care for themselves and their families.
3. Reduce the dependency syndrome that hinders self-sufficiency in Trinidad and Tobago.



Figure 1.

Container Preparation Flyer shared by

The Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries during the Home Gardening



Figure 2.

Thirty (30) bags of soil donated by Thomson's Garden Materials Limited

THE SPEAKERS' FORUM



Ms. Neki Mohan



Mr. Audley Knight



Dr. Nyan Gadsby-Dolly

Thanks to our Club Administration Committee led by its Chair Kirwin, we were able to introduce our first quarterly Speakers' Forum. Monthly presentations were delivered by renowned speakers who were exciting and informative in their contributions on salient matters, on topics relating to those issues raised by current RI President Shekhar Mehta in his monthly speeches. The following represents a synopsis of each speaker's contribution.

In July, we had the pleasure of Ms. Neki Mohan speaking to us from Florida and because of her media background, her appearance attracted great interest from our local media personnel, resulting in coverage by our national television station, TTT in prime time news. Neki discussed her challenges and joys growing up in her birthplace Trinidad, and her experiences as a successful female media personality in the USA. Her ultimate achievement of owning her own business as a media consultant in a male-dominated space, epitomised the empowerment of women and girls which is her passion.

Our guest speaker for the month of August, was Mr. Audley Knight, a Rotarian with Jamaican roots who is the current Regional Membership Officer of RI. His presentation therefore embodied the Rotary monthly theme on Membership and his advice on how our Club can attract and retain members, was most appreciated. Of utmost importance was the information from him that in the previous year our District 7030 led the way in new members' intake worldwide. We were encouraged by this information as, in alignment with the message of the President of RI, Mr. Shekhar Mehta, requesting Clubs to increase membership worldwide using the Each One Bring One (EOBO) initiative, we started active recruitment. So far, we have an increase of six (6) members already recorded during this quarter according to our Membership Chair, Janine, so we are on the right track!

September is designated Basic Education and Literacy month by Rotary International. We were therefore pleased to have our Honourable Minister of Education, Dr. Nyan Gadsby-Dolly as our feature speaker with a recording on this very important topic. The Honourable Minister was complimentary in respect of our Club's work in the schools in both the Maraval and Rampanalgas communities, and pledged her ongoing support for our efforts. Some takeaways from her address included the Ministry's plans for the digitizing of the education process and the collection of data on a more updated basis, that will provide informed decisions about literacy and other matters relating to education. A lively discussion on her presentation then ensued with our own Rotarian Chenice, a secondary school teacher as the facilitator. It was evident that this topic of Basic Education and Literacy will continue to be in the forefront of our Club's strategies and plans. The Rotary Club of Maraval is extremely appreciative of these speakers taking the time to share their timely views with us. We look forward to more exciting speakers at our Forum in the upcoming quarters.

FUN, FUN AND FELLOWSHIP IN A PANDEMIC!!

Our twin-island Republic of Trinidad & Tobago celebrated 59 years of Independence on August 31st, 2021. This year, similar to last year, we continued to experience lockdowns and having to stay indoors. But as a resourceful people we were able to find ways to have fun within the confines of our own homes while observing the established protocols.

The Rotary Club of Maraval was no exception to this and for our first Fellowship event for the Rotary year, we hosted a fun-filled Virtual Independence Day Celebration. The excitement intensified as the Rotary Club of St Augustine-West joined with us in the celebration, along with our friends of Rotary and other invited guests. In keeping with the Independence Day theme of the Red, White & Black, members were asked to fellowship with their own drinks and their favourite BBQ meal and to dress accordingly. It was a spectacular display of themed dressing as members really outdid themselves.

The event kicked off with The National Anthem of Trinidad and Tobago, followed by an independence message from President Adele. Members were then pleasantly surprised with an amazing virtual tour of the Caroni Bird Sanctuary, where the beautiful riverbanks and all the natural beauty surrounding the swamp were displayed.

Another surprise was the introduction of the founder and lead vocalist of STEEM Music, Tazyah O'Connor, who took us back in time with music from Shadow, Lord Kitchener and many other local vintage calypsonians. His melodious voice left us in awe and warmed up the crowd for the next segment, Karaoke. Needless to say, this segment exceeded what was expected as participating members showed off their awesome singing talent.

The evening was a tremendous success ending with a virtual fireworks display and a virtual toast. A well enjoyable time was certainly had by all. Finally, prizes were awarded to the first non-Maraval attendee to the event, the best dressed participant in the Red, White & Black, the Karaoke queen, the best BBQ presentation and the winner of our grand raffle. The Club Administration Committee thanks all our members and guests who made the event memorable.



DONATION TO WOMEN PRISONERS

For the second year in a row, the Rotary Club of Maraval has donated several care packages to the Trinidad and Tobago Prisons Service for distribution to incarcerated women. This donation was once again made possible with funds provided by the Canadian NGO, People Bridge Charitable Foundation. Special thanks to Ms. Carol Commissiong, representative of the NGO, who coordinated the sponsorship.



On September 29, 2021, observing all COVID-19 protocols, President Adele along with Board members, Ms. Mary Charles and Ms. Adanna Narine, symbolically handed over the care items to Senior Superintendent of Prisons (Ag), Mr. Hayden Murray and Superintendent of Prisons (Ag), Mr. Allan Nanan. The Officers thanked the Rotary Club of Maraval for providing invaluable contributions and support to the Trinidad and Tobago Prisons Service over the years, and also for assisting them in their efforts to provide opportunities to create better individuals.

UPCOMING MAJOR FUNDRAISER – FOUNDATION COMMITTEE



Rotary Club of Maraval presents
Virtual MEGA BiNgo

53

10 Games
4 CARDS per Game

\$130

PRIZES

40" SMART TV	AMAZON VOUCHERS
BBQ GRILL	SMART WATCHES
MINI APPLIANCES	FOOD HAMPERS
TICKETS TO TOBAGO	LIQUOR HAMPERS
+ MANY MORE	

LIVE PARANG MUSIC

BOOK NOW !!

Call Rotarian Ann-Marie 760-9714
Rotarian Marcia 680-1068

50

BINGO

Come and enjoy from the comfort of your home a **Virtual Mega Bingo** on November 06, 2021 at 6pm. The proceeds of this event will go towards the purchase of two (2) Paul Harris Fellowship awards and for contribution to other projects. Wonderful prizes were donated to make this a really Mega event. Together with a live Parang band to put you in the Christmas mood, **BOOK NOW** to make this Mega Bingo a success for the Rotary Club of Maraval!!!!



WHO CAN JOIN?

We're looking for people who want to give back to their communities.

Rotary clubs also welcome Rotaractors, Rotary Peace Fellows, and other members of the family of Rotary who qualify for membership.

HOW CAN I BECOME A NEW MEMBER?

Clubs accept new members by invitation. To help us find the right club for you, we'll ask you a few questions about yourself and your interests.

Contact us at:

The Rotary Club of Maraval, Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago

(Chartered 4th May, 1993)

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Rotary Club of Maraval Trinidad & Tobago-FB

www.rotarymaraval.org

<https://raise.rotary.org/RotaryClubofMaraval/fundraiser>