

villagers. The vaccination teams — made up of club members, doctors, and local nurses — reached the villages by boat, tracing an 8 km (5-mile) stretch of the Demerara River.

Bhageshwar Murli, 2020-21 president of the Demerara club, says that supporting the equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines to underserved communities was a natural fit for the club.

“Our club was highly motivated and excited to be involved in the particular effort, since it coincided with what we frequently do as a club,” Murli says.

Because of pandemic travel restrictions, villagers couldn’t go to nearby towns to buy food, clothing, medicine, and other basic necessities. So the club collected and distributed these items as part of the initiative.

The vaccination teams administered COVID-19 shots to 24 residents of Malali and 16 residents of Muritaro. The results may seem modest, but they were hard-won: Lancelot Khan, the club’s service projects chair and the coordinator of the project, says that vaccine hesitancy is an obstacle in these communities.

The club had visited the region in March 2020, when COVID-19 was beginning to spread in South America, to deliver masks and hand sanitizer, Khan says. But it was also Rotary’s historical work in the global effort to eradicate polio that proved to the villagers that it is committed to fighting disease. “Our linkage to these communities and history with our polio efforts gave residents the confidence that Rotary wouldn’t leave them behind when COVID-19 vaccines became available,” he says. “Rotary’s global standing on polio was a big plus.”

During the most recent trip, team members appealed to the village captains (residents who are elected to represent the communities) to be vaccinated. “The captains taking the vaccine showed the confidence necessary to convince others to take it as well,” Khan says.

The team members distributed educational materials about the vaccine, explained its side effects, and answered residents’ questions. They also showed photos of club members getting the shot to demonstrate its safety.

Murli hopes his club’s continued involvement in vaccination campaigns will boost the numbers of people who agree to get the shot.

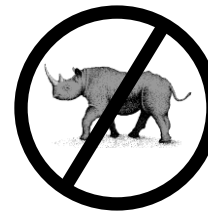
“We believe that a compelling picture is painted when it is seen that Rotarians are involved with COVID-19 vaccination drives,” Murli says. “We think our efforts can engender an increase in vaccinations and trust.”

THE EARLY RISER

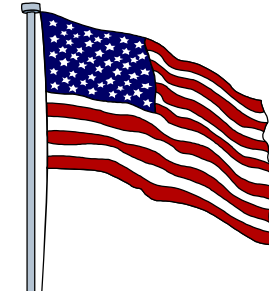
EVERY ROTARIAN
US \$100
EVERY YEAR



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DON'T BE A R.I.N.O.
(Rotarian In Name Only!)



ROTARY PRAYER

Oh Lord, and giver of all good, we
thank Thee for our daily food.

May Rotary friends and Rotary
ways, help to serve Thee all of our
days.

THE ROTARY CLUB OF WICHITA FALLS NORTH



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

2021-22 R.I. Officers - D5790

President of Rotary International: Shekhar Mehta

District Governor: Kayla Christianson

OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2021-22

President: Clint Wood ~ President Elect:

Secretary: Tom Sheriff ~ Treasurer: Ann Lucas

Executive Secretary: Jeani Secord ~ Sgt. at Arms: Larry Gunnell

Directors: Clint Wood – Phil Waggoner ~ Gary Southard ~ Mike Crocker

Tom Cale ~ Tom Sheriff & Troy Secord (PDG Ex-Officios)

Website: www.wichitafallsnorthrotaryclub.org

FUTURE PROGRAM ASSIGNMENTS

August 27 ----- Ann Lucas
September 3----- Bill Neale
September 9----- Installation Bqt./Club Social at River Bend at 6:00 PM
September 10 ----- Tom Ostovich
September 17 Robert's Family Scholarship presented at MSU, 7:00AM
September 24 ----- Rob Noble
October 1 ----- Troy Secord
October 8 -----Tom Sheriff
October 15 ----- Phil Waggoner
October 22 -----Gary Southard
October 29 ----- Tom Cale
November 5 ----- Joe Clement
November 12 -----David Collins
November 19 -----Mike Crocker
November 26 -----NO MEETING ~ THANKSGIVING
December 3 ----- Larry Gunnell
December 10----- Ajay Kumar
December 17----- Ann Lucas

NEWS FROM OUR LAST CLUB MEETING AT THE VANTAGE POINT CONDOMENIA:

President Clint led us in the Rotary Prayer and Bill led us in the Pledges.

Larry passed around the brag bucket and contributing were Troy, Clint and Gary.

An unknown birthday was announced for Jeani. A club anniversary was announced for Gary. 50+ wedding anniversaries were announced for Gary and Phil (not to each other)!

Clint announced that he had talked to the manager at the Highlander Apartments and he said that it was OK to use their parking lot in the event that the parking lot at the Vantage Point is full!

ACTIONS TAKEN AT THE 8/18/2021 CLUB BOARD MEETING:

A \$5,000.00 donation was approved to be used in conjunction with the "Downtown" Rotary Club's project of placing playground equipment in Rotary Park.

A \$1,000.00 donation to purchase a "shelter box" for the latest Haiti disaster.

A \$1,000.00 donation to the United Regional Foundation.

A \$1,000.00 donation to River Bend Nature Works. \$500.00 of which will be matched by The Rotary Foundation to make a total donation from Rotary North of \$1,500.00. The hope is that another organization or individual will once again match the donation to make a \$3,000.00 total donation to River Bend.

Tom S. presented the program for Ajay. It was the newest video from the School of St. Jude in Arusha, Tanzania, Africa.

The raffle raised \$26.00 and Rob was the lucky winner. He drew the 7 of clubs for a \$5.00 prize. If this week's winner draws the ace of spades they will win \$274.00 + 1/2 of what was raised today. ***GOOD LUCK!***

NEWS FROM ROTARY INTERNATIONAL:

GUYANA ROTARY CLUB BRINGS COVID-19 VACCINE TO DISTANT COMMUNITIES.

Members of the Rotary Club of Demerara, Guyana, are using their decades of experience in fighting disease while delivering COVID-19 vaccines and aid to a remote region of the South American country. The Indigenous communities there would not otherwise have access to the vaccine and would remain vulnerable to the virus.

The club's members have conducted crucial medical expeditions that penetrate the densely forested interior of Guyana for nearly 30 years. In doing so, they've developed detailed knowledge of the area and the particular needs of the villages in it. The treks have earned the Demerara club a nickname among nearby Rotary clubs: "the bush club."

When COVID-19 vaccines became available early this year, the club quickly took action, relying on members' familiarity with the region to plan logistics and coordinate delivery efforts. Focusing on the primarily Indigenous villages of Muritaro and Malali, the club collaborated with the local Ministry of Health and the Civil Defence Commission to immunize