

larger Foundation grant, which expanded the work to almost 100 local government areas across six states. "We were focusing on these local government areas because a majority of births in Nigeria are delivered at home," Lufadeju says. "We got similar results: more women coming to clinics for deliveries, and more clinics built by the government to accommodate the increases in attendance."

Then, a prominent gynecologist from Germany recommended focusing on quality assurance across the broad field of obstetrics: that is, quality of the facilities and equipment, quality of the process, and quality of the outcome. In 2008, Rotary members began collecting data on maternal deaths to help determine which interventions made the most sense — looking at not just how many mothers died but why. A scientific review, published in 2011, reported that the project had reduced maternal mortality by 50 percent. "That encouraged us," Lufadeju says.

Soon after, the federal government of Nigeria was working on Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response, a maternal death audit recommended by the World Health Organization. Members of Rotary realized that their quality assurance work was similar, and they began collaborating with the government on that work. They had been working with a German statistician to translate their data into an electronic format, and in 2018 the digital platform that he developed was integrated into the Nigerian health system. The platform allows statistics to be reported automatically, a first for the region, Lufadeju says.

In collaboration with the Nigerian government, what began as an eight-state electronic surveillance project spread nationwide. The Rotary project trained medical officers at the local, state, and national levels on collecting and reviewing the data, and it supported government officials in introducing a bill, later passed by the Nigerian parliament, that required the accurate reporting of maternal deaths. "We have made maternal death in Nigeria a notifiable condition. It can no longer be hidden. It is now in the public," Lufadeju says. "The government can use this information to employ more staff, do their budget, concentrate on areas of need, and make sure their national planning includes aspects of maternal health."

The Together for Healthy Families in Nigeria program of scale will take the lessons learned from the previous phases and perfect the system in three Nigerian states and the federal capital territory.

"We want a good model that we can replicate in other states in the country, and in other parts of Africa," Lufadeju says. The collaboration is key to the project's sustainability. "From the start, there was this connection with the government because we were thinking about sustainability and future funding," he says. "If you want to do a project in Africa, if you do it without the government, traditional rulers, or political leaders, when you finish, the project dies."

The program builds on the comprehensive work that Rotary has done in eradicating polio in Nigeria, which "developed a sense of trust and a sense of scale," Townsend says. "You've got to think about [polio] in a national, regional, and global perspective, and certainly maternal health relates to that. This is something that requires a big scale, and Rotary in Nigeria is particularly well-placed. There are clubs all over the country, its members are influential, and there are increasing numbers of women in leadership. And they are committed to doing things that really make a difference for society."

THE EARLY RISER

EVERY ROTARIAN
US \$100
EVERY YEAR



12 August, 2022
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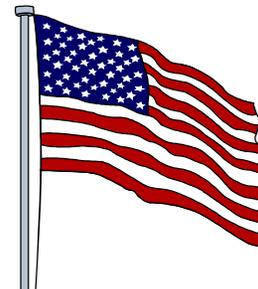
THE ROTARY 4 WAY TEST

First: Is it the TRUTH?

Second: Is it FAIR to all concerned?

Third: Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

Fourth: Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?



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



2022-23 R.I. Officers ~ D5790

President of Rotary International: Jennifer Jones
5790 District Governor: Dan Steele

OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2022-23

President: Ajay Kumar ~ President Elect:

Secretary: Tom Sheriff ~ Treasurer: Ann Lucas

Executive Secretary: Jeani Secord ~ Sgt. at Arms: Joe Clement

Directors: Clint Wood Phil Waggoner ~ Gary Southard ~ David Collins

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

Website: www.wichitafallsnorthrotaryclub.org

FUTURE PROGRAM ASSIGNMENTS

August 12 ----- Jeani Secord
August 12 ----- Tour of the 364th's Fuel Training Facilities.
August 19 ----- **3rd Friday ~ Rotary Board Meeting**
August 20 ----- Vibrant Club Workshop ~ Mineral Wells
August 26 ----- District Governor Dan Steele's official visit.
September 2 ----- Troy Secord
September 9 ----- Tom Sheriff
September 16 ----- **3rd Friday ~ Rotary Board Meeting**
September 23 ----- Gary Southard
September 30 ----- Bill Neale
October 2 --- W.F. Rotary Clubs (combined) picnic. 2:00 PM, Lucy Park
October 7 ----- Clint Wood
October 14 ----- **3rd Friday ~ Rotary Board Meeting**
October 21 ----- Joe Clement
October 28 ----- David Collins

NEWS FROM OUR LAST CLUB MEETING AT JIMMY'S EGG

The Rotary prayer was led by Clint and the pledges were led by Rob.

The brag bucket was fed by Troy (2) and Ajay.

Ajay noted that he has a person that has pledged to join.

Please note the Vibrant Clubs Workshop on August 20th in Mineral Wells. Please make plans to attend. We will carpool to Mineral Wells.

Larry was in charge of the program. He presented a very interesting presentation over the recent "fly-in" air show at Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

The raffle raised \$16.00 and Lucky Larry was the winner. He drew the ace of spades for a \$218.00 prize. Next week will be a new deck. If next week's winner draws the ace of spades they will win ½ of what is raised next week. It has happened before! Lucky Lisa, spouse of Luck Larry, was the only person to draw the ace of spades 2 weeks in a row.

NEWS FROM ROTARY INTERNATIONAL:

RECOGNIZING A WOMAN'S WORTH

Programs of Scale grant-winner *"Together for Healthy Families in Nigeria"* helps families by focusing on the fundamental needs of women.

In March 1994, at the Anaheim Hilton and Towers, Emmanuel Adedolapo Lufadeju and Robert Zinser struck up a conversation. The two men were district governors-elect, and they had traveled to California — Lufadeju from Nigeria and Zinser from Germany — for Rotary's annual International Assembly. As they spoke, the men discovered that their interests overlapped. Zinser listened intently as Lufadeju described a visit he'd recently made to a hospital maternity ward in Nigeria. At the time, five out of 100 babies in that country died in their first 28 days. Lufadeju had learned that the high rate of newborn fatalities resulted, in part, from poor prenatal and maternal care.

Zinser spoke up. "I can help."

In 1995, Lufadeju and Zinser started a small maternal and child health-care project in Nigeria's northern state of Kaduna. Today, their interventions have spread across the country and are changing the lives of millions of families — all because of that serendipitous encounter 28 years ago. "The story of our project is a story of Rotary friendship," Lufadeju says. "I thought it was something I would do as governor and go away. But it has lasted the better part of my life."

In June, The Rotary Foundation announced that the program, known as Together for Healthy Families in Nigeria, is receiving the Foundation's second \$2 million Programs of Scale grant, an award that will build on the program's past success to accomplish even more in the future.

"This is really about changing the way societies and health systems address the fundamental needs of women," says John Townsend, chair of the Rotary Action Group for Reproductive, Maternal, and Child Health, and chair of the ethical review board at the Population Council. "And that's important because women are the drivers of family and development. If a woman dies or is seriously disabled, the entire family is affected."

Ultimately, Together for Healthy Families in Nigeria wants to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality in the target local government areas by 25 percent. To do so, it aims to improve maternal health and access to family planning services while strengthening health systems at the national, state, and local levels. It also aims to increase the use of maternal care and family planning services by educating community members about their benefits, and to train health care workers to improve skills and track data on maternal and neonatal deaths so that interventions can be tailored to specific needs.

Together for Healthy Families in Nigeria is sponsored by Rotary District 1860 (Germany) in partnership with Districts 9110, 9125, 9141, and 9142 (Nigeria), as well as the Reproductive, Maternal, and Child Health action group. Rotarians and Rotaractors in Nigeria coordinate project activities, oversee training, lead advocacy efforts, and engage with the government. Members in Germany lend their technical and administrative expertise to support management, monitoring, and evaluation. The group has applied for funding from Germany's Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, which has been contributing since the very first project, including \$1.36 million toward the most recent global grant project. "Right from the beginning, they were the co-funders," Zinser says. "Not once, but always. You can convince somebody once for co-funding, but if you convince them year after year, you are on the right track."

Nigeria is a prime location for maternal and child health work. The country accounts for 23 percent of maternal deaths and 11% percent of neonatal deaths worldwide, says Jan-Peter Sander, the lead contact for the Programs of Scale grant. The Rotary Action Group for Reproductive, Maternal, and Child Health, which has targeted large projects in Nigeria, grew out of Zinser and Lufadeju's early work. "With interest because of [the grant], we will grow and grow," Zinser says.

As they plot their course forward, the program's planners can find inspiration from their earlier progress. After their success in Kaduna, Rotary members in Nigeria and Germany partnered on a