

to say, ‘This is what it will look like,’” Mohanty says. “I could see them thinking, ‘This looks simple.’”

Mohanty and Sinha were particularly eager to work with women in Salia Sahi because the neighborhood’s female residents don’t have many ways to earn money. Members of the Rotary Club of Amelia Kolkata, West Bengal, India, had the same priority when they launched a similar program last year.

“We reached out to women who needed some money in their hands because their husbands were daily workers earning a maximum of ₹300-₹400 [US\$3-\$4] per day,” says Nilanjan Mitra, the executive secretary/director of the Amelia Kolkata club. “They require money for their children’s education also. We wanted to empower them, give them some economic development, so their family could reach a higher level.”

Members of the Rotary Club of Umuahia North, Abia State, Nigeria, also wanted to help underemployed women develop a source of income. They recruited young men as well, ultimately hosting 200 people in a series of workshops. Emeka Sopuruchi, the club’s executive secretary/director, says that gaining a sense of purpose can be almost as transformative as adding a source of income.

“We entered the community and asked questions to find out if there was anything we could do,” he says. They found that many people needed more income, but one thing they had was enough time to grow and sell mushrooms.

Mitra adds that mushroom production is one of the few businesses that don’t require much money to start, or even a plot of land.

“There’s a minimal initial investment, and you can earn 15 times what you put in,” he says. “In our district, they can earn US\$53 in a month.”

Most important, people can use what they learn in these workshops to make an impact on their lives for years to come. After learning how simple it is to cultivate mushrooms, Munda taught her neighbors. Now they all work together. Munda even found another way to make money from mushroom farming: When the bag of straw can’t produce any more mushrooms, she can sell it.

“After the mushrooms are cultivated, I can sell the residue for compost and make ₹20 [US\$.25] a kilo,” Munda says. With multiple revenue streams, she says, “my lifestyle has changed for the better.”

THE EARLY RISER

EVERY ROTARIAN
US \$100
EVERY YEAR



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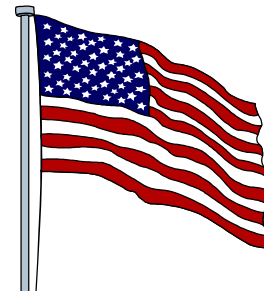
THE ROTARY 4 WAY TEST

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



2024-25 R.I. President and D5790 Governor:

President of Rotary International: Stephanie Urchick
5790 District Governor: Andy Eads

THE ROTARY CLUB OF WICHITA FALLS (NORTH), TEXAS

President: Matthew Milhollon

Website: www.wichitafallsnorthrotaryclub.org

FUTURE PROGRAM ASSIGNMENTS

January 31 ----- Clint Wood ~ Payton Fisher
February 7 ----- Julie Day
February 14 Mike Crocker ~ Jeremy Davis, Ex Dir, Museum of North Texas History
February 21 ----- **Board Meeting**
February 28 ----- Brandy Fields
March 7 ----- Larry Gunnell
March 14 ----- Ajay Kumar
March 21 ----- **Board Meeting**
March 28 ----- Ann Lucas
April 4 ----- Mrunalini Radkar
April 11 ----- Bill Neale
April 18 ----- **Board Meeting**
April 25 ----- Rob Noble

NEWS FROM OUR LAST CLUB MEETING HELD AT THE HAMPTON:

President Matt led the club in the Rotary Prayer and the Pledges.

Our special guest were Michael Day, Payton Fisher, Matt Gunnell, Cole Henson and Roger Taylor. Roger is the MSU student helping the club with its media services.

The club agreed to donate to the 364th Training Squadron at SAFB as per their request.

Julie has contacted George Getschow about the club making a donation to, and helping with, the Larry McMurtry Literary Center in Archer city.

The brag bucket was fed by Linda (2), Troy, Ann, Matthew (6) and Matt Gunnell.

Joe presented Trooper Juan Guitierrez as the weekly program. Juan is a member of the TxDPS. He gave an excellent program about the TxDPS.

The raffle raised \$24.00 and Julie was the lucky winner. She drew the ace of hearts for a \$10.00 prize. If this week's raffle winner draws the ace of spades they will win \$179.00 + ½ of what is raised today.

NEWS FROM ROTARY INTERNATIONAL:

ROTARY MEMBERS FIND AN UNUSUAL WAY FOR PEOPLE IN POVERTY TO SUPPLEMENT THEIR INCOME

In an impoverished area of Bhubaneswar, a city in eastern India, residents have found a surprising source of income: the humble mushroom.

Salia Sahi is one of the most crowded and underserved communities in the state of Odisha. Its largely migrant population of 100,000 lacks necessities such as a regular supply of clean water, and many people struggle to support themselves and their families.

"I have been earning about ₹11,000 [US\$129] a month working in a park, as a gardener. Now I earn additional money by cultivating mushrooms," says Mamina Munda, who has lived in Salia Sahi for 15 years. She's one of around 120 women in the neighborhood who have participated in Rotary-led workshops on growing mushrooms.

"I'm growing oyster and paddy straw mushrooms. I sell them at a nearby market. I make ₹3,000 to ₹4,000 [US\$35-\$47] a month," Munda says through an interpreter. "Now I can provide better food for my son. He is 10 years old."

Why grow mushrooms? It requires relatively few resources and offers many benefits. That's why several Rotary clubs around the world are starting mushroom cultivation projects, including the Rotary Club of Bhubaneswar Flamingo, Odisha, India.

"It's a very good, very profitable business which doesn't require a lot of time and doesn't require a lot of effort," says Smita Sinha, the club's executive secretary/director. "And at the same time, they can do their usual job, if they have one."

Munda and her fellow entrepreneurs grow their mushrooms in bags of straw. First, the straw is boiled or treated with lime to prevent the growth of bacteria and mold. Then it can be inoculated with mushroom spores or spawn (living fungal mycelium). Within a month, the mushrooms are ready for harvest. The medium can continue to produce mushrooms for several growing cycles before it needs to be replaced.

Another key benefit of mushroom cultivation, or fungiculture, is that it doesn't require much time. After the medium is prepared and inoculated, it just needs to be kept cool, dark, and damp. The grower can simply mist the medium regularly with a spray bottle.

Jayshree Mohanty, a member of the Rotary Club of Choudwar, Odisha, helped lead the Bhubaneswar Flamingo club's workshop. She advised the participants on how to package their mushrooms and how much to charge for them. First, though, she had to convince them that they could master the growing process. "We showed the women pictures of various stages of mushroom growth