

## Rotary Club of Castro Valley

July 1, 2020

Dear Friends,

What an honor it is to be president of the Rotary Club of Castro Valley. Long before I joined Rotary, I knew about this Club. In fact, I had visited the Club several times, and every time, I was impressed by the enthusiasm, caring, and dedication of the members and the Club's long tradition of service to our community. I look forward to working with all of you to continue that tradition this year.

Yogi Berra once said, "It's tough to make predictions, especially about the future." The future right now is very hard to predict. Like all of you, I look forward to again meeting in person for lunches and to taking on our traditional community activities and fundraisers. I don't know when that will be, but we do know next year will be challenging. We will need to be flexible, focused, and creative. Part of next year will look the same. We will have great speakers and partner with other organizations to maximize our effectiveness. I hope we will start a few new things too. New events, such as the car show and the restaurant walk and a satellite club to expand our membership.

We already have some great projects underway. First, we used our DDF funds for next year to join with the other Area 4 clubs to support local responses to the pandemic. That effort will bring an additional \$15,000 to Eden Medical Center. Second, we are working with A.R.T. Inc. on a project to document the pandemic in Castro Valley in photographs, art works, and poetry. Third, we are looking into a project to support local nursing homes that have also been greatly affected by the pandemic.

Last year was terrific year for our Club, but it was a challenging time for many others. With the COVID-19 pandemic, the resulting economic damage, and now the ongoing efforts to end racial disparities, our work is needed more than ever. With the extraordinary people that we have, I can only imagine what other service we might give to Castro Valley in the next 12 months. And we are ready for the job.

Service is in our DNA.

Gary Howard