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## 2020/21 Annual Year End Magazine

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The task ahead is challenging. And that should excite you. Rotarians love challenges. A ship is safe in the harbor, but that is not what ships are meant for. They need to go out in the high seas. Life is about adventure and not maintenance. *Serve to Change Lives: Shekhar Mehta, President Rotary International*

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## Rotary International President's Message

Shekhar Mehta

President 2021—2022 Rotary International



Rotary kindled the spark within me to look beyond myself and embrace humanity. Service became a way of life for me, and my life's guiding philosophy became, **"Service is the rent I pay for the space I occupy on this earth."** And I want to be a good tenant of this earth. I am sure each of you also has found your opportunity to serve. You too may have provided eyesight to the blind, food to the hungry, homes to the homeless. They may have been small opportunities for service or large projects. More than just the size, it is the attitude that defines service.

So, in the coming Rotary year, I request you, urge you, cajole you to serve people and help to change their lives. We need to **grow more** to **do more**. Membership, continues to be our biggest challenge. For the last 17-plus years, our membership has been at 1.2 million. The dream is to increase our membership to 1.3 million by 1 July 2022! How can we reach that incredible goal? The answer is **each one, bring one** — ask each Rotarian to bring one member to Rotary. As Rotarians in every club do this, they too will become change-makers, as they will change for good the lives of each person that they make a Rotarian.

I have always hugely been inspired by the motto of Rotary — Service Above Self. It has taught me to care for others and share with others. Service, to me, is about thinking of others even before I think of myself. Many of you have been an important part of similar service projects, and you have changed the lives of people.

There was a need to serve, and you served. Today the need to serve has become even more necessary and apparent.

So, our theme for the year 2021-22 is **Serve to Change Lives**.

As we all serve, we change the lives of not only others; we change our lives, too. And as we go about our service initiatives, our special focus this year will be on empowering girls. One of Rotary's core values is diversity. We have a public statement that outlines our belief in DEI — diversity, equity, and inclusion. It is important that we empower the girl as we all find that more often than not, the girl is disadvantaged. We will serve all children, but our focus will be specially on the girl. There are many issues that girls face in different parts of the world, and you as leaders will ensure that we try and mitigate the disadvantage of the girl that they may have.

To **do more** and **grow more**, we have designed some presidential initiatives. There will be seven presidential conferences across the world focusing on the seven areas of focus. And for every Rotary and Rotaract club to be able to organize and engage Rotarians and Rotaractors, and the public at large, we will have Rotary Days of Service. Do participate in the presidential conference closest to home, and do encourage every club to participate in a Rotary Day of Service.

Let us showcase our work the world over through thousands of Rotary Days of Service by Rotary clubs.

Ending polio, fighting COVID, working on large impactful projects, and increasing our membership to a never-before 1.3 million — the task ahead is challenging. And that should excite you. Rotarians love challenges. A ship is safe in the harbor, but that is not what ships are meant for. They need to go out in the high seas. Life is about adventure and not maintenance.

Let me end with what I have penned for our theme:

The biggest gift we are given  
Is the power to touch a life  
To change,  
To make a difference  
In the circle of life.  
If we can reach out  
With our hands, heart, and soul  
The magic will begin to happen  
As the wheel begins to roll ...  
Let's turn the wheel together  
So all humanity thrives  
We have the power and the magic  
To serve ... to change lives ...

### WE HAVE THE POWER AND THE MAGIC TO SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES



## President's Message

Rishi Ramlogan

President 2020-2021



I started my Rotary year during the Covid19 Pandemic and I understood the challenges which stood before me and my team. At the time of taking office, I knew this year would be one of learning whilst charting a new course for our club as we joined our Rotary family in accepting and working with the new normal.

As I reflect upon my term as President, this year's theme keeps resounding in my thoughts, **Rotary Opens Opportunities!** This year our members diligently followed our theme by creating sustainable opportunities for the community. Our virtual and in person sessions ensured that Rotarians remained engaged in all areas of Rotary to assist in opening opportunities for those in the Princes Town district. Former UN General Secretary Kofi Annan stated that "The world is not ours to keep. We hold it in trust for future generations." This is the way I view our club as we have now fully embraced using technology to take on the future.

As our year started we lost our Secretary Rhea Nobee and despite the raging pandemic we comforted each other as a family and we shared in celebrating her life. We must remember her at this time for her service to our club and humanity. Rhea's legacy will always remain with us as we continue to help those less fortunate.

In response to the Covid rules, we combined our management styles to create new strategies for fund raising and exceeded all expectations. We were able to complete our two annual fund raisers ChokhaFest at Ste Madeleine and the Golf

tournament at Pointe-A-Pierre. Both fund-raisers were managed to ensure all Covid19 protocols were observed and we maintained Rotary standards. Despite the economic downturn we achieved our profits and budgeted the club's activities for the year. I wish to thank all corporate sponsors for their donations and support for our projects. For the first time our club received two separate district grants. The first for a Covid 19 sink sanitation project at four health centres and two schools in our area; the second towards the purchase of 30 tablets for students with accessing the online school. My thanks go out to the district 7030 team for their support.

Our club's public image was well represented this past year with several newspaper publications and timely updates to Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and all other social media presences. We also introduced the printing of our quarterly magazine "The Mission". We met all public image goals and was recognized by our district 7030 with Public Image Citation for exceeding all public image goals.

Our online presence allowed us to showcase Rotary awareness online and attract members whilst keeping our members engaged. No in person awareness campaigns were held this year to prevent human contact. We have added three new members this rotary year. Our membership committee has arranged virtual and in person lectures, presentations and training to develop the leadership skills of our members. We are now 21 members strong and I encourage our readers to share the word to get involved by joining us.

We have distributed hundreds of hampers to families in need. Our hand washing bays at health centres serve over 100,000 patients. Our Christmas concert went virtual this year and was recorded at the St. Stephen's College and our nation was entertained on Christmas Eve via CNC3. The Christmas treat was completed in accordance with all Covid19 rules at the Gangaram Trace recreation ground and we held a medical outreach clinic at this venue in February 2021 in remembrance of our Rotarian Rhea Nobee. We partnered with the south cluster to provide donations to St. Vincent after the devastation of the La Soufriere volcano. We have distributed wheelchairs, assisted in surgery and serviced monthly requests for assistance. Recognition for our service projects was given by way of Presidential Citation.

Our Interact clubs at St. Stephen's College, Cowen Hamilton and Princes Town West Secondary continue to meet as a team to pursue the ideals of Rotary as students. We registered 20 participants at this year's online RYLA event. Our annual scholarship drive is on for this year and we purchased 30 devices for students in need to access virtual classrooms.

With our goals being met during one of the darkest times in world history I remain humbled by the fact that our board of directors was fully dedicated and enthusiastic.

It has been a great honour to serve alongside all members of our club and I thank you all for placing the confidence in me to serve.

Yours in Rotary  
Rishi Ramlogan  
President 2020-2021



## Incoming President's Message



Incoming President 2021—2022

I am truly honoured to serve for a second term as President of our dynamic club. This year's RI theme "Serve to change lives" is of special meaning to the world as the international challenges faced must be addressed positively to change the lives of every human being we come into contact with. Our incoming RI President Mr. Shekhar Mehta has stated that he intends to focus on membership building and retention more in this year and he will encourage clubs to use action plans and reinforce the core values of Rotary. In this my second term in office I believe we can all be a part of this mission to adhere to our action plans and reinforce our core values of Rotary.

Our focus on increasing membership and developing membership this year is aligned with our international objectives. My intention is to resume where we left off after the lockdowns to having our club observe more fellowships, engage our members in more committee meetings and joint projects with other clubs to sustain and strengthen our clubs and to let new members get a hands on approach to Rotary work. Our best asset is our human capital and we must ensure that our members are equipped and engaged at all times.

Our fund raisers will be adjusted according to governmental regulations to ensure that we can continue to obtain our funding whilst obeying all Covid 19 rules. We must also consider the fact that new sources of funding will be needed in the next year and all members will be tasked to assist with new initiatives to ensure

that we have future sustainable funding to manage our budgets. Our Tea and Fashion show was cancelled, however if all regulations are relaxed we will resume this fundraiser in 2022. A lunch sale with bar b que, Chinese and Roti is also being planned. We do hope that by the next handover our club would have adequate funds to continue our work.

For the next 12 months we intend to focus more on training and development of our members via the district training team and also to increase our presence with the Interactors at all clubs when the schools are permitted to allow students back into school.

The childhood obesity project and annual world diabetes day walkathon observance will also be resumed and we can look forward to using our mix of skills in the club to assist in the diabetes awareness joint meetings with other clubs. I do intend to approach our district for funding for such a project this year to ensure that we can do our part in preventing childhood obesity. For our environmental project the planting of trees and beach clean-up exercises are to be resumed once we are permitted to do so.

Our celebrations and community outreach projects for Eid and Divali are on and we will ensure that this year our members can take part in celebrating both festivals and assisting communities. The cuisine, deserts and ambience of these festivals are always well accepted by our club and is a great opportunity for new and prospective Rotarians to attend.

In our district there is a growing poverty gap and our work provides both social and economic relief to the community. We have changed so many lives over the years and 2021/2022 will be no different. We must continue to serve with the values of Rotary in the back of our minds as we serve the people. Our medical and legal aid clinics provide much relief to the areas we assist and in the upcoming year I do hope we can resume our activities in this area of focus.

To our new board for this upcoming year, thank you all for accepting your various roles and for stepping up eager to serve. This year we need to resume our hosting of board meetings in person to get our healthy discussions and fellowship back to where we were before the pandemic. A board is the strength behind the presidency and I know our mix of skills and competencies will allow us to accomplish our goals and strategic objectives as we **CHANGE LIVES** together.

I once again thank all Rotarians for their dedication and willingness to serve. I also wish to thank my wife Nadira for her support both in the past year and the incoming year ahead as without her support I would not have been able to step up for yet another Rotary year.

Yours in Rotary  
Rishi Ramlogan



Dr. Ronald Gobin  
Secretary

## Secretary Report 2020 –2021

I was appointed by the Board of Directors to fill the void created due to the untimely passing of the elected Secretary and Incoming Club President Ms Rhea Nobee on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020.

This report covers the time I assumed the role of Secretary to the end of the Rotary year.

The year has been challenging due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. We continued our operations as a successful Rotary Club during the year observing all COVID protocols. Earlier, we were able to have meetings at our regular meeting place, Canton Palace Restaurant, but after the Easter holidays, we were faced with a second island-wide lockdown. Our club meetings then continued virtually via the Zoom platform.

Routine secretarial duties were completed.

Monthly reports on attendance were sent to our District Governor, the District Secretary, our Assistant Governor and our club President.

There were eight (8) members maintaining 100% attendance. Our 3 new members who joined in December 2020 also maintained 100%. For the first time we inducted a new member under the new classification of 'family membership'. Our club's overall attendance was 76.4%.

Our projects have been limited due to COVID-19 restrictions but we have been able to successfully complete humanitarian assistance to needy members of our community. We distributed many food hampers. We provided assistance with wheel chairs and assisted financially in the construction/repair of homes. We also assisted in funding requests for urgent surgery. We thus fulfilled

many aspects of the six Areas of Focus in Rotary.

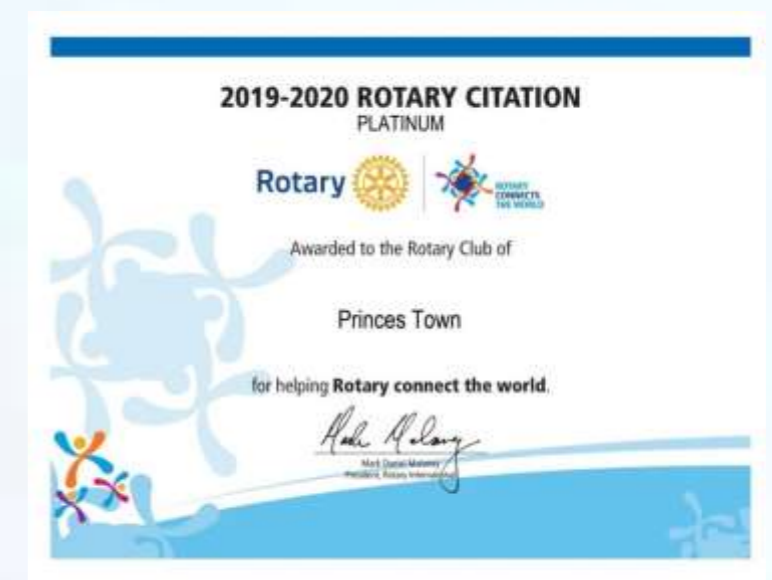
Funding for our projects has been limited due to COVID – 19 restrictions. We however, have been able to have our ChokaFest last year and our annual Golf tournament earlier this year. As a result, funding for our scholarship programme has been realized.

Our successes as a Rotary club can only be due to the commitment and the dedication of our Rotarians and that of our President and his Board of Directors.

To our incoming Directors, let us strive to maintain our status in District 7030 and the Rotary world. Let us continue to assist those who are in need and let us build on the successes that we have achieved. Good luck and best wishes to the new Board and incoming Secretary Andrea.

## PLATINUM PRESIDENTIAL CITATION AWARDED FOR 2019-2020

Congratulations to IPP Jamir Ousman and his Board of Directors and the Club members for completing all their projects which enabled the Club to receive the Platinum Presidential Citation for a second year! This Citation was warmly received by the Club as we strive to improve the quality of life of the members of our community through our service projects and our focus on education.





Bashir Mohammed  
Treasurer

## Treasurer's Report 2020—2021

During the Rotary year 2020 – 2021, I had the privilege to serve as Club's Treasurer with responsibility for the financial management and the integrity of the Club's finances and timely processing of the Club's obligations.

As the country was negatively impacted by the Covid pandemic, the Club only held two major annual fund raisers: Golf Tournament and ChokhaFest where net proceeds were used towards funding our medical outreach clinic, wheelchair distribution and other charitable requests from various communities.

Our Club also benefitted from Two (2) Grants, from Rotary & our District for use towards the purchase of tablets for students and the other for the installation of handwashing bays at schools and health centres to adhere to Covid-19 regulations.

Timely payments were made on behalf of Club members towards RI and District dues, Rotary Foundation and Polio contributions. All payments to Vendors were completed on time to ensure Club's obligations were met on time.

The accounts for the last Rotary year were audited by an independent Auditor and we received a favorable report. At the end of this Rotary year, our accounts will be audited by an independent auditor.

I thank President Rishi and the board of directors for the opportunity to serve as Treasurer and I look forward to serving with incoming President Rishi and his board of directors as we promote goodwill and better friendships by working together to assist the less fortunate in our society.



Andrea Bhagwandeem  
Membership Director

## Membership Report 2020—2021

As a Rotarian of recent vintage, this year has simultaneously been my first experience serving on the Board of Directors of RCPT. It is my good fortune that RCPT has been built upon the shoulders of strong and erudite leadership and to have been surrounded by a membership fully committed to the Rotary ideal of Service Above Self. I have thoroughly enjoyed the support of the Directorship and wider membership. I take the opportunity to especially thank IPP Jim, Secretary Ronald and President Rishi for holding my hand as I found my footing as a new member and Director but also to caution all that I intend to continue to rely upon their continued support throughout my tenure at RCPT. I remain inspired having watched members continue to go the extra mile to build the Club, carry out many worthwhile projects for the bene-

fit of our local, regional and international community; demonstrate innovation and grit in the face of a pandemic.

This year, we inducted three new members but lost six. The Club's membership goals are unmet mainly due to the circumstances presented by the impact of the pandemic. Nevertheless, the Club's work continues to attract volunteers and new members.

Our major fellowship activity this year was our Family Day at Seelal's Ranch which was well attended and bustling with fun and activity. The club benefitted from guest speakers and is thankful to the following for generously giving of their time: Mr. Darrion Narine, Mr. Kevin Mervin, Mr. Steffan Charles, Mr. Don La Foucade, Dr. Vishal Bahall, Mr. Jeff Chan-

der; and Mr. Ravindranath Goswami.

To persons interested in joining Rotary, I wish to present to you this quote from Shirley Anita Chisholm, the first black woman elected to the United States Congress:

***"Service is the rent we pay for the privilege of living on this earth."***

Perhaps the best reason for becoming a Rotarian is the chance to do something for someone else and enjoy the sense of self-fulfillment that accompanies the process and return of that satisfaction to one's own life. Rotary is richly rewarding. In an increasingly complex world, Rotary provides an opportunity to serve.



Rishi Ramlogan  
Club Administration Director

## Club Administration Report 2020—2021

Our Club once again gave me the opportunity to be the Director Club Administration for my 7<sup>th</sup> year in a row. Due to the current pandemic, it took a combination of project management knowledge, hybrid meetings and a committed team to ensure that our fundraisers were completed on time and according to schedule. The 27<sup>th</sup> annual ChokhaFest was held on October 24<sup>th</sup> 2020 and our usual production was modified to accommodate all national Covid-19 rules and regulations. Although we did not have any in-house dining, mass gathering or live entertainment, we were well supported by members of the public who purchased our delicious take away boxes with over 15

dishes. The feedback received was that the exotic food was enjoyed by all our customers. Our thanks go out to the members of the Ste Madeleine Golf Club for their assistance.

Our 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf tournament was held on Sunday March 7<sup>th</sup> 2021 at the Pointe-A-Pierre Golf Club and our team again expertly managed the day's match according to all Covid-19 rules. Our prize giving ceremony was held 1 week later to avoid any excessive crowds gathering at the venue. Our rotarians Patsy, Wendy and Zobida along with partner in service Parbaty did an excellent job at selling our raffle tickets and we enjoyed the ambience and a socially distanced fellowship

throughout the day. Special thanks go out to our partners in service Nadira, Tara, Narisha and Parbaty for their assistance on the day.

Our committee members Andrea, Jamir, Rudranath, Bashir and Ronald must be thanked for their numerous meetings both in person and online which they attended to plan and execute these projects. It must be noted that due to the current pandemic we were unable to host our flagship fundraiser, the much anticipated tea and fashion show. However once our health regulations have changed our show will be back. Thanks once again all members for your assistance.



Rudranath Maraj  
Public Relations Director

## Public Relations Report 2020—2021

The objective of the Rotary Club of Princes Town Public Relation plan is to enhance our Club's image by raising awareness and promoting the club's works, service projects, fund raisers and events across the various forms of social media platform, electronic and print media at every given opportunity and by doing so promote the values and work of our club.

I was inducted in April 2019 and was asked to serve as Public Relations Director for the period 2020-2021 in May 2020 by President Rishi Ramlogan. My first responsibility was to oversee the completion of our annual magazine for the period 2019-2020, as the PI Director had officially resigned for personal reasons. This was completed in a timely manner

through the hard work by now Rotarian Narisha and our PR Committee.

All our projects including sink installations at Health Centres, medical outreach clinic, fund raisers, Food Hamper distributions, Christmas Treat, our Virtual Christmas concert, wheelchair donations, just a name a few were well advertised on social media, on our website as well as being published via the print media. We completed our quarterly magazines in a timely manner which were uploaded to our website with this year being the first time that we were able to publish our third quarter magazine to distribute to our sponsors, family and friends.

This year the Public Image Citation requisite was quite different to previous years, as we were given specific tasks to complete and submit to the zone 34 PI Coordinating team, including a "Content Calendar" where we planned for each of the twelve months on varying projects which we intended to complete. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, some of these were impossible to be done. Our Club still however through our hardworking committee achieved **2021 Public Image Citation.**

Special thanks to President Rishi for having the confidence in appointing me to the board and serving as PR director. Our success would not have been possible without the support of my Rotary Family.

## DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S BOARD VISIT

On October 15th 2020, our Club had its first official meeting with DG Lisle Chase for this Rotary year. He was accompanied by District Secretary Soraya Warner-Gustave and AG Debbie Roopchand. In attendance from our Club were President Rishi Ramlogan, Secretary Dr. Ronald Gobin, Treasurer Bashir Mohammed, IPP Jamir Ousman and Directors Dr. Lindsey Aziz and Rudranath Maraj.

The DG's visit to a Club is usually a combination of business and pleasure as the opportunities to interact in person with our esteemed District Leader are typically few and in true Rotary fashion typically involves food. However, this year as we've all been forced to adapt to living in a Pandemic, with borders shut and gatherings limited, we each sat in our own homes/offices, sipped on our tea and enjoyed some quality time on Zoom with 'Lisle' as he instructed we refer to him, a most humble and service oriented individual.



Michael Cooper-Ochiengh  
Service Projects Director

## Service Projects Report 2020—2021

This Rotary year, 2020-21 will be remembered for the impact that Covid-19 had on our service projects. We entered this Rotary year in lockdown and we find ourselves ending it in yet another lockdown. I am glad to say however that regardless of the restrictions imposed and challenges encountered during this period, the Rotary Club of Princes Town was still able to reach out to and serve the community of Princes Town and environs.

### MEDICAL OUTREACH

Ordinarily the Rotary Club of Princes Town would usually hold 3 Medical outreach clinics but due to the restrictions we were only able to hold 1 medical outreach. This was successfully held on Sunday 7th February 2021 with the invaluable help of Councillor Gowrie Roopnarine. This outreach took place at Gangaram Trace in New Grant, the home neighbourhood of our Immediate Past Service Projects Director Rhea Nobee. All covid protocols were adhered to and approximately 120 persons were registered. The services provided included Legal Aid, comprehensive Medical consulta-

tion, Blood Pressure, Blood Sugar and Cholesterol testing, Dental consultation, Fitness and Health consultation including BMI testing. A Pharmacist was on hand to discharge the recommended medication. On the day numerous clothes and books were distributed as well as sanitization packs which included a toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, toilet paper. In addition to all of this, a donation of over 100 lunches of pelau and coleslaw salad was also distributed.

### COVID-19 WASH FACILITIES

Through a district grant, the Club was able to assist 4 health centres and 3 schools with the installation and upgrade of wash facilities in order to help with containing the spread of the covid-19 virus.

### BABY HAMPERS

In keeping with initiatives to help with sanitation during the pandemic, we also provided Baby hampers to over 30 expectant mothers at 2 health centres. The hampers contained newborn Huggies pampers, Huggies natural care wipes, baby soap, shampoo, bubble bath and baby oil.

### BOOKLIST

The cost of textbooks can be very high. Many families find that their children are at a disadvantage due to the inability to purchase necessary textbooks. The Club was glad to have assisted three families with book lists for five children. Those assisted included both Primary and Secondary school age groups.

### REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

Regardless of the negative impact of Covid-19 on Service Projects, the Club was still active in responding to requests for assistance. In total we donated 7 wheelchairs, numerous hampers and household items, contributed towards the cost of building materials and towards MRI and Eye surgery costs.

The work of the Service Projects team is highly dependent on the collaboration of all club Directors and Club members and as such, none of the efforts would have borne fruit without the camaraderie that has continued to be evident within the Club. Let us continue to work together as we make the next year another successful year of the Rotary Club of Princes Town.





Dr. Lindsey Aziz

Foundation Director

## Rotary Foundation Report 2020—2021

As we close another Rotary year, we must thank God for life because we have not all made it through. It has been, without a doubt, one of the most trying years any of us has ever encountered both personally and collectively as a Club. None of us could have ever envisioned living through an ongoing Global disaster of this magnitude but certainly facing it as a unit has brought some comfort to an almost unbearable situation. This pandemic has brought with it sickness, pain, hurt, loss of life, jobs, social interactions and a world of suffering. It brought the entire world to its knees and with it shone a light on the perspective that life is precious and absolutely nothing else is important in the pursuit of preserving life.

I also take this opportunity to salute our fallen soldier, Rhea Nobee who unexpectedly passed at the beginning of the Rotary year leaving us all heartbroken and the Club with a void that simply cannot be filled.

Rotary 2020-2021 was, as is customary for our Club, a successful year with many of its carefully structured goals being achieved. However, the case for the Interact Clubs was not the same. For the entire duration of the Rotary year there was no in-person school throughout Trinidad and Tobago. All school related activities were conducted via online platforms which created its own host of problems as many students lacked devices or a reliable internet connec-

tion to log into sessions. As such two of our three Interact clubs were unable to hold board elections and thereby sustain a functioning club for this period.

Obstacles notwithstanding, the Interact Club of St. Stephen's College has been very active for the first two terms of the school year, headed by President Amanda Ali. To mention some of their activities the students organised weekly meetings and Game nights to discuss Club business and promote team work and mental health. Some of the members assisted in our effort to have a virtual Christmas Concert held at their school's amphitheatre by decorating the stage area and coordinating the production. Their biggest undertaking was aimed at providing relief to persons who indirectly fell victim to the Covid-19 Pandemic. The students, synchronized their efforts, compiled and distributed 11 hampers to deserving families in the community by Christmas day, 2020. This was definitely an admirable and well-executed mission!

The Rotary Club of Princes Town coordinated a number of activities/events/projects; all of which involved the Interactors in some way.

The RCPT in collaboration with PriceSmart conducted a hamper drive in South Trinidad and 32 hampers were given to students meticulously chosen from our Interact Club Schools.

In commemoration of World Peace Day, District 7030 Peace Building Committee hosted a webinar featuring Director Peter Kyle where two Interactors from our clubs were in attendance.

World Polio Day and Chokhifest coincidentally fell on the same day, October 24<sup>th</sup> 2020. It

was a great opportunity, which we seized, together with the students from the Interact Club of St. Stephen's College to educate our patrons on Polio Awareness and Rotary's mission to eradicate this preventable disease.

This year our Club made the decision to have a virtual-televised Christmas concert showcasing the talents of students from various schools. It was done in conjunction with the CNC3 team and aired on December 23<sup>rd</sup>.

RYLA was held on a Virtual platform for the very first time on January 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> 2021 which was greatly beneficial because we were able to sponsor and register 18 participants, significantly more than ever before!

One of our most significant projects this year fueled by the devastation caused by the Pandemic was to provide Smart Devices to students within our Interact Schools who do not have access to one for their e-learning. For this venture, the Club received a District Grant to assist in its funding. A list of 30 pupils, was collated by the patron teachers, however the distribution was halted as a result of the State of Emergency brought into effect at the same time. The devices will be delivered as soon as is practicable.

In keeping with our focus on Education and Literacy and 'Opening Opportunities', six well deserving students have been chosen to receive awards towards their tertiary level expenses as part of our Scholarship Awards programme. However, the Awards Ceremony was unfortunately postponed secondary to restrictions and will be held as soon as is feasible.

I urge you at this time to remain safe as the Pandemic is not over and certainly do get vaccinated when it becomes available to you. I thank you for the opportunity to serve.

# JULY 2020

## CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF RHEA NOBEE PHF

The Rotary Club of Princes Town joined the Rotary fraternity in mourning the passing of one of its Rotarians, Rhea Nobee.

Rhea was inducted into the Rotary Club of Princes Town, Trinidad and Tobago, on the 25th November, 2015, almost five and a half years ago. She was sponsored by the club's charter member and Rotary Past Assistant Governor, the late Wayne Nanan.

In the last three years, Rhea served in various directorship positions on the Club's Board of Directors: Director of Rotary Foundation, Director of Public Relations, and on two consecutive occasions as Director of Service Projects. In this Rotary year, 2020/2021 she served as Club Secretary and was also President Elect for the 2021-2022 rotary year, the highest position in the Club.

As a Rotarian, despite her unfortunate short tenure in Rotary, Rhea had an exemplary Rotary career of many laudable accomplishments in fund-raising and was instrumental in the success of many of the club's worthy charitable projects over the years.

Rhea was motivated by the plight of the less fortunate and spared no efforts in the relief thereof; she was dedicated and devoted to this cause and her devotion thereto was accompanied with love and happiness that exuded from her warm and happy personality.

In recognition of extraordinary Rotary achievements, Rhea was recently awarded a Paul Harris Fellow, Rotary International's highest award at our Club's Handover Ceremony held in June 2020.

The members of our Club were very saddened by her untimely death and will miss Rhea greatly; she will forever be in our thoughts.

The Rotary Club of Princes Town extended its deepest sympathies to her daughter, granddaughter (who was always with Rhea), mother and other family members and friends of the late Rhea Nobee.

The Club members pledged to continue and complete the projects initiated by Rhea and ensure that her legacy lives on.



## HAMPER DISTRIBUTION RE COVID-19

During the month of August 2020, the Rotary Club of Princes Town in collaboration with PriceSmart Trinidad conducted a Hamper Drive in south Trinidad where seventy (70) food hampers were distributed to the less fortunate families. Of these, thirty-two very deserving students and their families were carefully selected by the Interact patron teachers of the Princes Town West Secondary School, Cowen Hamilton Secondary School and St Stephen's College. The hampers were generously donated by the PriceSmart Trinidad in an effort to aid those families which have been negatively impacted by the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Members of the Rotary Club of Princes Town teamed up, strictly observing the Covid-19 protocols and set out at dawn on Saturday 22nd of August, 2020 to deliver the hampers to families all of whom were very grateful for the much needed relief.

Special thanks to the following Rotarians who dedicated their time and effort to make this a successful hamper distribution:

- IPP Jamir Ousman and his partner in service Tara, President Rishi Ramlogan and Membership Director Andrea Bhagwandeem who distributed throughout Rio Claro, Tableland and New Grant.
- Service Director Michael Cooper-Ochiengh and Rotarian Darren Harrilal who distributed in Moruga, Indian Walk and Fairfield.
- Foundation Director Lindsey Aziz and Rotarian Hamza Ali who distributed in Princes Town and environs.

This was a project initially commenced and coordinated by the late Rhea Nobee, the Club's Service Projects Director at the time of its inception in May of 2020. We are pleased yet again to bring to fruition another project for which she laid the groundwork.



## SEPTEMBER 2020

### BABY HAMPER DISTRIBUTION AT HEALTH CENTRES

During the month of September, our Club distributed baby hampers to expectant mothers at the Rochard Douglas Health Centre on September 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020 and the Ste Madeleine Health Centre on September 17<sup>th</sup> 2020. The hampers contained newborn Huggies pampers, Huggies natural care wipes, baby soap, shampoo, bubble bath and baby oil.

This could not have been possible without the generous donations from Bryden Pi Ltd (pampers and wipes), Parkview Drugs (baby soap, shampoo and bubble bath) and President Rishi Ramlogan who provided the baby oil and bags.

All social distancing protocols were observed and adhered to. Special thanks to Director of Service Projects Michael Cooper-Ochiengh, IPP Jamir Ousman and his partner in service Tara for overseeing this distribution.



### HANDWASHING BAYS AT INDIAN WALK HEALTH CENTRE



In keeping with Rotary International's areas of focus, Disease Prevention and Treatment and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene; the Rotary Club of Princes Town in an effort to flatten the curve in the daily growing numbers of the Covid-19 pandemic which has befallen our nation, installed two hand washing bays on the compound of the Indian Walk Health Centre on September 8th 2020 to facilitate both members of the public and staff members washing their hands prior to making further entry into the compound.

The aim of this project is to protect both the patients from spreading the virus to each other and to stem the spread of the virus to the healthcare workers stationed there.

Special thanks to Director of Service Projects Michael Cooper-Ochiengh and his committee for overseeing this installation for another successful project of the Rotary Club of Princes Town.

# OCTOBER 2020

## CHOKHAFEST

Our annual ChokhaFest fund raiser was held on Saturday October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at the grounds of the Ste Madeleine Golf Course. After being postponed due to Covid-19 restrictions, our loyal patrons were overjoyed and turned out to pick-up their chokhas while maintaining their social distance or chose to utilize our delivery service option via our Rotarians to receive their meals.

Despite the inclement weather initially, the evening was truly a successful one as Rotarians and their partners in service gathered to serve our tasty chokhas from as early as 2pm to our patrons. There was a steady flow of patrons to our fund raiser with each patron having the opportunity to sample all the chokas or select and go, as this year our guests did not have the opportunity to sit back, relax and dine. The variety this year included smoked herring, buljol, baigan chokha, tomatoes chokha, bhaji, pumpkin, eddoes, ochro, coconut chutney and an assortment of sauces.

Special thanks to all Rotarians, our partners in service and of course our patrons, for making this a success so our club can continue its charitable work and continue to serve the less fortunate.



# NOVEMBER 2020

## CLUB DIVALI CELEBRATION

On Wednesday 11th November 2020, our Club held its first in person meeting at Canton Palace Restaurant to celebrate the occasion of Divali with a mini Divali programme and of course some delicious Indian food thereafter. President Rishi Ramlogan sang an opening Hindu prayer, IPP Jamir recited a prayer and Director Andrea did a presentation on the significance and meaning of Divali and PP Capil serenaded members with a beautiful rendition of a Bhajan. All Covid-19 protocols were strictly adhered to at this meeting.



## DIVALI AT CUNJAL ROAD

On Wednesday 11th November, 2020, our Club delivered Food Hampers to deserving families in the community of Tortuga as part of our Community Divali Program. Covid-19 restrictions prevented the Club from hosting a Divali program within the community. Nevertheless, our Club recognized the need to continue to provide yeoman service to those in need during these difficult and challenging times.

Special thanks to our President Rishi Ramlogan for distributing the hampers to the community.



# DECEMBER 2020

## PRESIDENT'S CHRISTMAS DINNER

Christmas is a time for family, socializing (while social distancing), sharing food and festivities. 2020 was a year of separation from each other and the world, that's why our President's Dinner held on Friday December 11, 2020 was such a cherished event. For one night, we donned our finest; faces adorned with masks and came out with our families for a dual intentioned evening of fellowship and inductions.



## CHRISTMAS TREAT AT GANGARAM TRACE, BROTHER'S ROAD

Braving the early morning heavy showers, Rotarians and their partners-in-service made their way to Gangaram Trace in Brother's Road for our Community Christmas Treat on December 13, 2020. This location was specifically chosen in tribute of our fallen angel, former Rotarian Rhea Nobee. The children of the community were met by Mrs. Claus, wonderfully portrayed by Rotarian Andrea to each receive their toy and treat bag amidst a festive atmosphere of villagers, Rotarians and partners-in-service. Of course everyone was briefed and fully obedient to the safety protocols of Covid-19.

Unfortunately due to the heavy downpour not all the families for whom treat bags, toys and hampers were catered for were able to attend. This however did not prevent them from receiving what was intended for them. The Rotarians reloaded the vehicles and started the journey, finding the families who were unable to make it to the ground at Gangaram Trace and delivering the hampers and gifts to their homes for which they were immensely grateful.



# JANUARY 2021

## HAMPER DISTRIBUTION

On Saturday 16th January 2021, in our continued efforts to assist families in need, our President Rishi Ramlogan visited 3 families at Iere Village Branch Road and donated food hampers.

One family with a baby also received a case of baby pampers and a baby feeding table which were donated by Director Rudy's daughter Ambika Maraj Seudath. Special thanks to Councillor Alvin Daniel who assisted with identifying the families and with the delivery of the items.



## CERVICAL CANCER AWARENESS

In recognition of Cervical Cancer Awareness Month and to promote the awareness of this preventable and curable disease, the Rotary Club of Princes Town had the distinct pleasure of hosting Dr Vishall Bahall, specialist Obstetrician/ Gynaecologist/ Oncologist, who spoke comprehensively on Gynaecological Cancers, its detection, treatment and of course preventative methods at the Club meeting held on Wednesday, 20th January, 2021.

For this special meeting and to maximize its reach and benefit, Rotarians invited their close female relatives, partners in service and friends. Everyone soaked up the information Dr Bahall had to share, paying very close attention to the fact that this is a disease that women, can all so easily avoid by taking the HPV Vaccine available through the public health system. Can you imagine that! Having the power to prevent a certain cancer!

Dr Bahall was very clear and eloquent in his delivery, captivating the audience with his every word. After his presentation, a few very pertinent questions were asked by the attendees, all of which were expertly answered, leaving no doubt in the minds of the audience.

Special thanks to our Membership Director Rotarian Andrea Bhagwandeen for her dedication in organizing this well attended event.



# ROTARY CLUB OF PRINCES TOWN



Jamir Ousman  
Events Management  
Retired



Dr. Ronald Gobin  
Medicine



Capildeo Beharry  
Chartered Accountant  
Retired



Zobida Ragbirsingh  
Counselling Services



Patsy Chankersingh  
Hospital Administration  
Retired



Bashir Mohammed  
Executive Consultant



Amraz Ali-Bocas  
Beverage Sales  
and Distribution



Rishi Ramlogan  
Computer and  
Information Systems



Crystal Ann Harper  
Law



Debbie Roopchand  
Law



Dr. Nazim Mohamed  
Academic Scientist



Dr. Lindsey Aziz  
Medicine

# MEMBER CLASSIFICATION



Michael Cooper-Ochiengh  
Information Technology



Rudranath Maraj  
Laboratory Services



Andrea Bhagwandeem  
Law—Civil Litigation



Dr. Stefan Nanan  
Dentistry



Ravi Ramanand  
Pharmacy



Darren Harrilal  
Business



Wendy Ann Joseph  
Banking Retired



Villon Stanley  
Health and Fitness



Narisha Aziz-Mohammed  
Management



# FEBRUARY 2021

## MEDICAL OUTREACH CLINIC AT GANGARAM TRACE

On Sunday 7th February, 2021, the Rotary Club of Princes Town held a Medical Outreach Clinic since the onset of the CoVid-19 Pandemic. This was done at the Gangaram Trace Recreation Ground in Brother's Road, and expertly coordinated with the Princes Town Regional Corporation where we were able to serve almost 120 patrons from this community who find it very difficult because of road conditions, transportation problems, financial issues, proximity burdens or otherwise to access these basic services which are offered at the health facilities.

Rotarians and partners in services gathered from as early as 6:00 am to ensure that all was in fine order so the day could run smoothly especially having to adhere to strict CoVid-19 Protocols with respect to temperature screening, mask-wearing, sanitizing and social distancing. Services offered included medical check-ups with blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol testing, doctor's consultation and examinations, dental examination, pharmacy services, legal advice, fitness guidance and assessment including BMI calculations. There were also free medication, clothing, hygiene-packs and food distributions.

Some of the planning that went into this highly successful event came from the expertise of the Councillor/ Chairman of the Princes Town Regional Corporation Councillor Gowrie Roopnarine, who had a specific hand in identifying the deserving families.

Our sincerest gratitude goes out to our President Mr. Rishi Ramlogan, Service Projects Director Michael and his team, our hard working and dedicated Rotarians, their Partners-in-Service and children, our in-house doctors, Drs. Mr and Mrs Premanand, Dr. Kavi Ali, our pharmacist Anandi Maraj and Attorney Jehan-Che Perreira.



# MARCH 2021

## GOLF TOURNAMENT AT PETROTRIN GOLF COURSE

The Rotary Club of Princes Town held its 21st Annual Golf Tournament on Sunday 7th March 2021 at the Pointe-a-Pierre Golf Course. Over the last 20 years our membership has promoted a Golf Tournament, the proceeds of which are used towards financing the Club's charitable objectives and in particular satisfying requests for medical emergencies, surgeries and requests for financial assistance from the less fortunate in the society for what may be considered to be the basic necessities of life.

Rotarians gathered as early as 5:30am, making sure all was in place for this Fund Raiser Tournament. A total of 72 players, 36 teams, registered for this Golf event, the first team teeing off at 7:15am, all competing for our attractive prizes ranging from 1st place to 7th place, nearest pin and of course our raffle which was coordinated by Rotarians Patsy and Wendy and included 3 fabulous prizes.

This year, a total of 36 teams competed for the very attractive prizes with two 42" JVC Smart TV's as the first Prize, Golf Carts as Second Prize and a 2 night stay at Magdalena Grand Resort with airfare for Third Prize.

Special thanks to all our sponsors without whom this tournament would not have been the success that it was, our Caterer – TT LunchKIT Catering, the Golf Committee of the Pointe-a-Pierre Club led by Mr. Kalam Sookoor, our Club's Golf Committee, all Rotarians and Partners in Service and our President Mr. Rishi Ramlogan.

All of the winners were presented with their prizes and trophies on Wednesday March 10th 2021 at the Prize Giving Ceremony where the TGU sponsored team with Namdeo Boodram and Winston Boodram emerging victorious! Our Club thanks all of our sponsors that ensured our Golf Tournament was a huge success!



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# APRIL 2021

## ST. VINCENT DISASTER RELIEF

The Rotary Club of Princes Town partnered with the Rotary Clubs of Maraval, San Fernando South and Point-a-Pierre to send 5000 disposable masks and one truck load of Blue Waters equivalent to 1,040 cases of water to our neighbouring island, St Vincent as part of the relief effort to aid its citizens in the aftermath of the La Soufrière volcanic eruption. These items were part of the immediate needs list provided by the National Emergency Management Organization of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Special thanks to our President Rishi Ramlogan for coordinating this effort and to all the Presidents and Clubs for this relief effort. Every little contribution will assist and provide relief to our Caribbean brothers and sisters during this time.



## EARTH DAY

This year 2021 marks the 51st anniversary of the annual Earth Day celebrations with the theme 'Restore Our Earth.' With social distancing still in place for many of us, Earth Day had gone digital to include virtual events such as environmental lectures and films. Of course, social distancing doesn't mean that you can't go outside and enjoy nature, as long as you do so responsibly. As such, on April 22nd, Rotarians and family members took the time to do some tree planting exercises and disposal of plastic bottles.



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## WHEELCHAIR AND HAMPER DISTRIBUTION

On Sunday May 2nd 2021 our club donated a wheel chair to Mr. Steve Rampersad who resides with his wife Anganie Rampersad and their daughter, at Harry John Trace, St. Julien, together with a Food Hamper.

Mr. Rampersad is 56 years old, suffers from a stroke, has diabetes and high blood pressure. Due to personal financial constraints and serious health problems, our Club was glad to assist this family in need. Thanks to our Services Projects Team and President Rishi for distributing these items. Photo was edited for personal reasons.



## HAMPER DISTRIBUTION

On May 6<sup>th</sup> our Club was glad to present to Miss Marissa Lall a food hamper to assist her with much needed grocery supplies. Miss Lalla is a single mother with two children who resides at Fairfield Princes Town, and has been unemployed since the first lockdown. Our President was at hand to present same.

Photo was blurred for personal reasons.

On June 8th 2021 our Service Projects Director Michael, delivered a much needed food hamper to Mrs. Lystra Cooper Parris from Fairfield. Mr. Parris had emergency brain surgery last year and has not worked since then nor does Mrs. Cooper.

All safety protocols were strictly adhered to, following the necessary guidelines. The work of our Club never stops, more so ever in these trying difficult times where food distribution to the less fortunate in our society is of paramount importance.



## JUNE 2021

### RADIO COMMUNICATION IN DISASTER RELIEF

As a spinoff from the recognition of the month of May as National Disaster Prevention and Preparedness month, on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021, RCPT had the benefit of learning from featured guest speakers: Mr. Jeff Chandler, Amateur Radio Operator, EmComm Specialist, EmComm Manager with Trinidad and Tobago Radio Society and Mr. Ravindranath Goswami, President of Radio Emergency Associated Communications Team of Trinidad and Tobago (REACT TT) Council.

Amateur Radio is subject to regulation at the national and international levels. Amateur radio operators aid their communities not only in the circumstance of community events but also in disaster response. REACT TT is a local network of committed professionals who aim to assist their communities in the event of an emergency or disaster by sharing information using amateur radio communications.

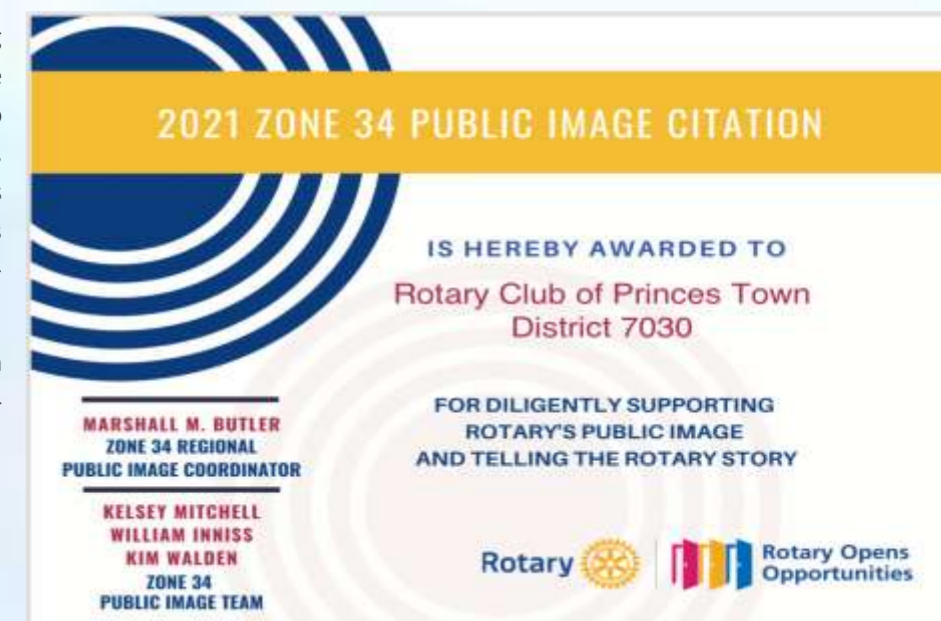
Among the most notable points which the membership was able to glean from the speakers that so impactful is the utility of radio communication in the event of a natural or manmade disaster is that it forms a part of the National Emergency Communications Plan. The membership also learned of the role of radio communications in the wake of the disaster caused by Hurricane Ivan, a category 5, in Grenada in 2004 and later by Hurricane Emily in 2005. The club also learned about the role which radio communication recently played in transmitting information out of St. Vincent following the eruption of La Soufriere in April 2021. Members posed several questions to the expert guests; all of which were provided apposite answers.

RCPT takes the opportunity to express its sincere gratitude to Mr. Chandler and Mr. Goswami for so generously sharing their time and expertise and look forward to future opportunities to collaborate.

### PUBLIC IMAGE CITATION FOR 2020-2021

Congratulations to our Club on achieving the 2021 Public Image Citation under the leadership of President Rishi. Thanks to our PR Director Rudranath and his team, as we continue to promote our Club's works and events through the various social media platforms, print and electronic media.

Our Club also achieved Rotary Citation also referred to as the Presidential Citation award, having met the goals and criteria established by the RI President.



## VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

On December 10<sup>th</sup> 2020, The Rotary Club of Princes Town held a Virtual Christmas concert entitled, "A Light of Happiness, Humility and Hope," with a live recording at the St. Stephen's College Amphitheatre, which was broadcasted on CNC3 on Christmas Eve at 2:30pm.

Participating students and Interactors from St. Stephen's College, Princes Town West Secondary, Tableland Secondary, Tabaguite Secondary and Moruga 5th Company Baptiste School displayed their hard work, dedication, discipline and exceptional talent through Vocals, Dance and Steelpan performances.

Our Club extends our deepest gratitude to the Anglican Board, Principal and Vice Principal of St. Stephen's College and the teachers who accompanied the students - Mr Maharaj, Ms Ballah, Mr Joseph, Ms Bain, Ms Pierre, Ms Edwards and Ms Bishop. Special thanks to the decorating committee, Renu Boodoosingh, Sumintra Boodoosingh, Amelia Ayoung, Amanda Ali, Ethan Churaman, Justin Jaikaran, Ariel Mahabir, Shania Ramkellawan, Arun Mahabir, Carlton Fuller, Lara Lee and Dale Fuller for your time, energy and effort in making the concert a success.

Thank you to the organizing committee and Partner in service Tara Ousman who assisted with the decorations and the Rotarians who were present to oversee the event – President Rishi and First Lady Nadira, IPP Jamir and spouse Tara, PP Dr, Gobin, Director Lindsey and Director Michael. Finally to Ivan Toolsie and the CNC3 Team we are forever grateful for your support in televising this event so we may spread the joy of the season and the talent of our youth with the entire nation.



## P.E.T.S. 2021 TRAINING ONLINE

Rotarians across the globe commit to taking on the gargantuan task of working together to change lives. In order to preserve its effectiveness, Rotary Districts host an annual training program called the **President-Elect Training Seminars (PETS)** for its officers and new members at the home country of the District Governor. This year, our region's District Governor, Lisle Chase hails from St. Lucia.

The CoVid-19 pandemic having reached the shores of the countries within the district stymied our travel plans but prompted Rotarians to innovate. The 2021-2022 District 7030 Training Team delivered online training



and education sessions for incoming Rotary & Rotaract club officers, club directors and club committee chairs.

Rotarians across District 7030 were inspired to innovate and provided with useful information, ideas and strategies aimed towards assisting with enhancing and achieving club objectives. This year's sessions covered topics such as "Leadership"; "Diversity, Equity & Inclusion"; "Project Design & Implementation"; and emphasized the value of Rotary Clubs within the region working together owing to the devastation brought to St. Vincent on account of the La Soufrière eruption and saw Rotary Clubs rally and send swift support to our distressed neighbours in St. Vincent.

## WORLD POLIO DAY

World Polio Day was observed on Saturday 24th October, 2020. This year, amongst all the trials and tribulations we have all had to face for the year, it has never been more important for us as Rotarians, Rotaractors and Interactors to continue to recognize and support the mission and goals of PolioPlus and that of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

In the spirit of unity, collaboration and camaraderie, something very special was planned for us all as Caribbean members of the Rotary family. For the first time ever, Districts 7000, 7020 and 7030 partnered to produce a singular World Polio Day event! As such on Tuesday October 20th, Rotarians participated in a special address by Carol Pandak, RI Director PolioPlus, who spoke on the connection between the work of PolioPlus and Covid-19 relief efforts around the world.

Our Club commemorated this World Polio Day at our fundraiser by showcasing Polio and encouraged patrons and Rotarians to spread the word by circulating photos of themselves with the End Polio Now slogan in their social media channels.



## ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is an intensive leadership experience organized by Rotary clubs and districts where you develop your skills as a leader while having fun and making connections. Unfortunately, at the end of the previous Rotary year, plans for an in-person RYLA had to be cancelled at the last minute due to the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic. This was heartbreaking for the two students we had already chosen to represent our Interact Clubs at the event.

This year we are pleased to state that the District 7030 went above and beyond in its efforts for RYLA and certainly compensated for the regrettable but unavoidable cancellation last year. The Rotary Club of Princes Town registered 18 participants for attendance at RYLA from its three Interact Clubs.

The format took that of a two-day virtual event with speakers from across the world! The young persons were educated on a wide variety of pertinent and applicable topics. On day one, the topics covered included: Environmental Sustainability- addressing Climate Change and its effects on

the CARICOM and how young people can become involved; Basics of Effective Communication; Being Health Advocates- battling childhood obesity; Digital tools to improve productivity; Financial Planning for young entrepreneurs; Cyber-bullying- Rethink before sending.

On the second day of the event the topics were: Creating Peaceful Spaces through effective conflict resolution and learning problem solving principles; Understanding diversity, equity and inclusion; STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Education in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century; Rotary Interactive Quarantine- meeting new global friends; Journey to Interact: testimonies from past Interactors; Project Management; Building your personal/professional brand; Rotary opens opportunities: Earlyact > Interact > Rotaract > Rotary.

The following are some testimonials from our students who attended:

'I did attend the RYLA 2021 and it was an amazing experience for me.'

'I learnt a lot about things in the Caribbean and how we can help out towards mak-

ing a difference. Also health tips I follow to this day, and I also shared that said info with my family and they found it very beneficial as well.'

'Even the rethink aspect helps to make better decisions...'

'I'm proud to say that this experience was a game changer for me and it helped shape me to who I am today...I had a great experience.'

'Although the semi-lockdown prevented us from physically attending this event, which was well anticipated, the event was well orchestrated and very informative.'

'What benefited me the most from this event was the information on 'Financial Planning for Early Entrepreneurs' which was presented by Mr. Roger Moore from Cashflow Club Caribbean.

'...I also enjoyed the book Rich Dad Poor Dad by Robert Kiyosaki, so I gained much helpful information from the presentation.'

'The overall event further allured my attention towards becoming a Rotarian... it was well received.'



## THE IMMORTELLE - THE FLAMING TREE

The rain has abated and the dry season is here  
**It's time for the Immortelle**

To don its new and flamboyant attire  
And its gorgeous beauty to cast a magical spell

Standing inconspicuously in the verdant crowd  
Its green, deciduous leaves are shed  
And vermillion flowers now adorn the Immortelle  
With regal raiments and a bejewelled crown on its majestic head

Basking in the blue-white sky and radiant sun  
The Flaming Tree is colourfully afire  
Brooking not as askew look  
But charismatically beckoning to pause and admire

Caressed by the genial breeze  
The glamorous Immortelle bows and sways  
To the lilting music of the cajoling wind  
In these happy, bright, sun-shiny days

Now is the time, the captivating sight  
To awe not at the wood but at the trees  
For the Immortelle is in resplendent florescence  
The eyes to gladden and the heart to please.

Alas, Nature is resolute in Her days and ways  
And like the ocean flood tide and ebb  
The Immortelle will bloom and blossom  
Then its flowers will it shed

### But Nature's wondrous works are not yet done

For soon the green and greener leaves will appear  
With the Immortelle inconspicuous again in the verdant crowd  
Consorting with greenwood companions near and dear

All good things must come to an end  
Do not harbour such plaintive gloom  
For the dry season will go and come  
With the Immortelle again in vermillion bloom

-0-

By Rotarian Capildeo Beharry  
Rotary Club of Princes Town, Trinidad & Tobago  
March 2021  
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## NEW MEMBER INDUCTIONS

On 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020, the Rotary Club of Princes Town had the distinct privilege of welcoming three (3) new sets of skills and talents. The induction ceremony, which was held at Canton Palace Restaurant saw Partner In Service, Narisha Mohammed being the first Rotarian of the Club to have "family membership"; a category of membership which the 2016 R.I. Council of Legislation approved. Rotarian Narisha continues to provide yeoman service to the club, as she has done for over a decade.

Former Rotarian Wendy-Ann Joseph, now retired and devoted to service, was also enthusiastically received into membership and she is already actively assisting with rolling out plans for the Club's next fundraiser. At the age of only twenty-five, Rotarian Villon Stanley, a son of the soil of Princes Town; entrepreneur and personal trainer, gave his commitment to service and was warmly welcomed into the Club. Rotarian Villon is already serving on the Service Projects Committee; a demonstration of his eagerness to improve the quality of life for people in the community. The Rotary Club of Princes Town continues to celebrate success as 2020 saw its improvement as a diverse group of professionals who share a drive for making a positive impact on the community and the world over.



## ZONE 34 CLUB VIDEO CONTEST

Congratulations to the Rotary Club of Princes Town as the Runner-Up with 283 Votes in the Zone 34 Club Video Contest. The theme this year was How your Rotary, Rotaract or Interact Club "Connects The World" in 2019-2020.

Special thanks to Past President Matthew Mc Dowell and Immediate Past President Chris Ramdeen of the Interact Club of Cowen Hamilton Secondary School for their assistance and guidance in the compilation and production of the video.

Thank you to all our supporters, friends and well wishers who voted each day, we appreciate your unwavering support of all our Club events!



**ZONE  
34  
CLUB  
VIDEO  
CONTEST**

**The Results  
are IN!**

A total of 1,593 Votes and we  
reached 5,622 people!  
Congrats to:

**WINNER 524 VOTES**  
Rotary Club of Anguilla  
D7020

**RUNNER-UP 283 VOTES**  
Rotary Club of Princes Town  
D7030

**THIRD PLACE 276 VOTES**  
Rotary Club of  
New Providence  
D7020

**A Clean Sweep for  
the Caribbean!**  
@RotaryZone34video

## FAMILY DAY AT SEELAL RANCH

On a beautiful, sunny Sunday morning, our Rotarians and their friends and families packed their vehicles on March 21st 2021 and enjoyed the scenic drive to former Rotarian Seelal's Ranch in Princes Town. When we arrived, we were greeted by a picturesque open field surrounded by towering trees that provided ample shade for us for the day. We couldn't wait to explore more!

PP Jim, PIS Tara and Parbaty bubbled a huge pot of vegetable soup as First Lady Nadira and Debbie, our hostess, prepared the seasonings and curried the duck which was cooked "Chulha" style. Simultaneously, PP Bashir, Rotarians Rudy and Nazim barbequed the chicken and grilled the salmon as Rotarians Patsy and Andrea prepared the salad for lunch. Our lunch menu was complemented with roti, channa and fried rice by Rotarian Andrea, macaroni pie by PIS Radhika, garlic bread by Rotarian Michael and PP Zobia surprised us with pholourie and a tasty tamarind sauce as appetizer! Rotarian Amraz, President Rishi, IPP Jim, PP Ronald and Rotarian Rudy all contributed by the way of drinks.

Our treasured ladies from the Rotary Club of Maraval also joined us for the day and brought delectable desserts and snacks that were enjoyed by all. Prospective Rotarian Steve and his wife brought mini pizzas and potato pies and Rotarian Wendy brought snacks which were quickly demolished by the kids and adults as they played throughout the afternoon.

The Club would like to express our sincerest gratitude and heartfelt thanks to our host Seelal, his wife Debbie and their children Amy and Nicholas for opening their amazing nature retreat to us and allowing us to enjoy a day outdoors where we can fellowship with our friends and families and where all Covid-19 regulations were observed. It was truly a fun filled day, where lots of memories were made and one which will not be forgotten soon!



## BASIC EDUCATION AND LITERACY

In an effort to assist with Education and Literacy, on November 7th 2020, our Club assisted three families with school books for five children. One family also received a box of new born baby pampers courtesy Director Rudy Maraj.

Many thanks to our Service Projects Director Michael, Director Dr. Lindsey and Rotarian Hamza for assisting with the delivery of the items.



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## HANDWASHING BAYS AT HEALTH CENTRES

On November 06, 2020 the Rotary Club of Princes Town as part of Rotary's area of focus on Water and Sanitation, installed two hand washing bays on the compounds of the Ste Madeleine and Williamsville Health Centres in an effort to flatten the curve in the daily growing numbers of the Covid-19 pandemic which has befallen our nation, to facilitate both members of the public and staff members washing their hands prior to making further entry into the compound.

Special thanks to Director of Service Projects Michael Cooper-Ochiengh for overseeing this installation and his team, for another successful project of the Rotary Club of Princes Town.



## WHERE ARE WE NOW?

In celebration of Rotary Foundation month, on November 18, 2020 our club invited motivational guest speaker Mr Don La Foucade who delivered a sensational presentation on the topic, "Where Are We Now?"

Don La Foucade has been delivering inspirational talks and workshops around the Caribbean since 1999. He is a former Manager, Social Investment Corporate Communications T&T, RBC Royal Bank and was specifically responsible for coordinating their Young Leaders Program, one of the Caribbean's most highly successful youth initiatives. In 1989 he earned the "Most Disciplined Youth Linker" award for his involvement in the Republic Bank "Youth Link" program. In 2009, he was nominated to the Board of United Way Trinidad and Tobago, which he gladly accepted and serves on to this date. Don's long service in the work of shaping character, resilience and self esteem in people and his skills in doing so with a degree of dynamism and warm-heartedness, has earned him the respect of many.

Our members were truly enlightened by Don's presentation and will use his ideals and ideas as we continue to be of "Service Above Self".



*Thank You To Our Sponsors*  
*Rotary Club of Princes Town 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Golf Tournament*  
*Sunday 7th March 2021*  
*Pointe-a-Pierre Golf Course*

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## WHEELCHAIR DISTRIBUTION

As our Club continued to provide assistance to individuals in need, the Rotary Club of Princes Town donated six wheelchairs to individuals in the local community during the rotary year. Past President Jamir Ousman and Service Projects Director Michael Cooper-Ochiengh delivered a much needed wheelchair to Mr Francis of Princes Town who was very happy as this wheelchair would greatly assist him to alleviate the pain when moving with crutches which he was using at that time.

Past President Jamir Ousman and Partner in Service Tara, delivered a wheel chair to stroke victim Stella Samaroo of Kernaham Village as well as to Ms Mathura who is diabetic and a right leg amputee. Ms Mathura had found it difficult to purchase a wheelchair, especially after having to pay for assistance at home, medical expenses and groceries. They also delivered a wheelchair to Yulana who is unable to walk or talk having suffered from complete paralysis since birth and is completely reliant on family members for her every day needs. This donation will provide some comfort and ease with their respective mobility challenges.

Our service projects Director Michael and IPP Jamir delivered a wheelchair to Ms Luville McKnight, a cancer survivor who has been a diabetic for more than 3 decades. President Rishi and IPP Jim also donated a wheel chair to 67 year old Miss Ramsamooj who resides at Torrib Tabaquite Road, New Grant. Miss Ramsamooj is a double amputee and has been a diabetic for over 27 years and was very happy to receive this wheel chair.



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