



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Rotarians,

In this season of thanks, I am grateful to have an opportunity on behalf of the Board to say thank you to all of you – our members – who contribute to our efforts through our committees, programs and projects, mentoring our branches, and attendance at events. We are so fortunate to work with you to advance our shared goal of bringing people together to create lasting and positive change in ourselves, in our communities, and across the globe. Can you believe we are already 6 months into the Rotary year?

It's incredible what we have accomplished so far, and I'm looking forward to seeing where 2024 takes us. Here is a brief recap of just some of what the club has accomplished in the first six months:

- Approved and moved forward with the set-up of the RCEHT West Africa Branch, which meets in Ghana;
- Developing the RCEHT East Africa Branch, which will meet in South Sudan;
- Added a total of thirteen new full members and four new associate members;
- Developed the RCEHT Economic Development Program, currently in its Phase 1 overview process;
- Approved two new endorsee organizations: [Her Future Coalition](#) and [Lift Up the Vulnerable](#);
- Approved and funded a grant to support the Stop Human Trafficking Lending Library in Chiangmai, Thailand;
- Stood up a PR committee and engaged with RCEHT member organizations to share our club's information in physical locations, such as at our District (5950) conference;
- Fundraised over \$5,000 for our newly established RCEHT Foundation; and,
- Reviewed and updated our grant application process, membership engagement policy, and scholarship process.

Thank you for your time and generosity over the last six months and for your impact on our communities – both local and global. I know that our efforts and impact will only increase as we move into the latter half of our **Year of Action**. Wishing you all a wonderful holiday season no matter the specific holiday you celebrate. See you in 2024!

Yours in Rotary,
Lisa Podolny
Rotary Club to End Human Trafficking President, 2023-2024



HIGHLIGHTS

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RCEHT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE UPDATE JAN 2024- PHASE ONE PROJECT PLAN

Following the presentation of the Phase One Project Plan to the club, we requested feedback from a wide variety of people inside and outside of Rotary in order to gain the benefit of other's experiences. This proved quite beneficial. Two advices in particular were recommended by multiple respondents.

1. Start small
2. Work through local partners

This is guiding us as we begin the development of our initial test.

Phase One Initial Test Planning and Progress

We have selected Ghana, West Africa for the first test based upon the following criteria.

1. There is a well-known area of Ghana where trafficking is well documented due to economic circumstances.
2. There are Rotarians that wish to participate in the test who are known, have an established track record, and are enthusiastic about the project.
3. We can leverage the club's West Africa Branch for assistance.

An initial test planning session including the Ghana Rotarian contingent was held on December 12. Much was discussed concerning the types of people to consider for the initial test. However, the priority action is firming up the necessary Rotary club partner relationships.. We are targeting one club in Accra and a second club in the northern city of Tamale. I will be in Ghana the last two weeks of January and seek to get at a minimum a verbal commitment to proceed toward creating a Memorandum of Understanding.

Second Potential Economic Initiative

As I have reached out to my network looking for those who might help with our Economic Development Initiative, I have come across many great programs that have merit but are different from what we are proposing. It occurred to me that, in addition to the work we are doing to *actively manage* a program, we could promote our goal further by becoming an *active conduit* for economic development program awareness. We are brainstormed establishing a library of economic development programs Rotary Clubs around the world could search when they are considering activities to promote to fight human trafficking.

This is in the very early stages of conceptualization. We hope to be able to provide more a more detailed concept sometime during the second quarter.

Yours in Rotary,
Michael Podolny



UPDATE ON RCEHT WEST AFRICAN BRANCH (WAB)

The RCEHT West Africa Branch recently held a meeting on December 14, 2023, where key members discussed upcoming activities and fundraising strategies. The meetings emphasized impactful projects and innovative fundraising ideas, with a focus on community support and outreach.



The team discussed Focusing on the following Projects.

1. Distribution of Sanitary Pads: A key initiative is distributing sanitary Pads to young adults in primary and junior high schools, addressing a critical need in the community.

2. Raising Awareness about Sex Trafficking/Trading: The club is set to undertake efforts to increase awareness about sex trafficking and trading, showcasing their commitment to social issues.

3. Supporting Orphanages: Continuing their tradition of giving, RCEHT(WAB) plans to give alms at orphanages, representing their dedication to the welfare of needy children.

Innovative Fundraising Ideas

RCEHT(WAB) has two fundraising strategies: in-person and online. The in-person strategy involves visits to organizations like M.T.N and banks, where wooden souvenirs will be distributed. The online strategy consists of setting up a website to sell souvenirs and other handmade goods to attract support for TGVA and RCEHT causes.

Plans and Actions

The next meeting is scheduled for January, where progress will be reviewed and challenges discussed. The team is also preparing a presentation for January 11, focusing on recruitment strategies, connecting with other rotary members, especially in Accra, and creating an action plan for previously discussed projects. Benedicta Gbadegbe is tasked with approaching potential associate members like Yaw Asamoah, Jonas Ayi, and Albert.

These meetings underscore RCEHT's unwavering commitment to community service and its innovative approach to fundraising. By engaging in meaningful projects and strategic planning, the Rotary Club West Africa Branch is set to impact its community significantly.

_Respectfully reported by Benedicta F. Gbadegbe and Evangeline Nubuor, Rotary Club West Africa Branch.

UPDATE ON BOARD DISCUSSION

The RCEHT Board meets on the first Thursday of every month. Below are the main topics from the last two meetings (November 2 and December 7).

Let a board member know if you have any questions or comments!

- RCEHT West Africa Branch approved: meets in Ghana
- New members: 10 full members and 1 associate member
- New treasurer: Karen Walkowski
- Administrative forms reviewed and approved:
 - Grant Applications
 - Membership Policy
 - Scholarship Applications
- RCEHT Economic Development Program: Overview of Phase 1

HUMAN TRAFFICKING MONTH



#MYFREEDOMDAY

#MyFreedomDay is an opportunity for schools around the world to show their support on behalf of the 10 million boys and girls trapped in modern day slavery. We encourage all people to participate in a day of action to support those working to free them.

The focus of the upcoming campaign is on forced child labor, and the children who do not have the opportunity to go to school. Our campaign is called "Little Hands," and we will be documenting stories of child labor and showing the hands of the children who toil in the mines, fields and factories around the world.

To show their solidarity and aversion to this form of slavery, we're encouraging classrooms in every country to post pictures of their students' hands to social media.



If you're interested, please fill out this short form to receive updates on the campaign.
<https://forms.gle/tni3mqbwXiUvLZFr5>

For more information about dialogues for students 13-17 years of age during the week of #MyFreedomDay starting March 11 please see [here](#) and share with other educators, organized by the Tony Blair Institute for Change's Generation Global and [FREEST](#).



Lift Up the Vulnerable

Lift Up the Vulnerable (LUV) and the [Minnesota International NGO Network \(MINN\)](#) are excited to host an evening of networking and sharing information on how poverty makes people more vulnerable to exploitation and how the LUV model helps prevent trafficking in war zones. On January 18th at 6:30pm at [The Red Sea](#) in Minneapolis.

This event is co-sponsored with [MINN](#) and [Global Minnesota](#) and will include an evening of:

- connecting with other internationally minded people.
- learning about the impacts of poverty on Human Trafficking and solutions that LUV is implementing to prevent vulnerable children and women from being exploited.
- enjoying authentic Ethiopian food

The event is free, open to the public, and would be a great opportunity to share more about LUV with others in your personal or Rotary networks.

More details on the event and the registration link can be found [here](#).

"ACE" Club Members (Annette, Cindee, and Erin) Meet... in Person

RCEHT members Annette Mansfield (Minnesota, USA), Cindee Sapoznik (Georgia, USA) and Erin Maloney (Québec, Canada) are members of the RCEHT Programs and Projects committee, meeting regularly with other club members.



While Annette and Cindee had been friends for years, neither had ever met Erin. In the fall of 2023, "ACE" decided to meet in person. So, from December 14-18, they stayed at a bed and breakfast in Boston (Massachusetts, USA).



Highlights from their trip:

- 250th Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party -- important in the history of the founding of the USA
- John F. Kennedy Library and Museum
- In addition to their mother tongue of English, speaking three other languages -- Spanish, French, and Turkish
- Meeting so many friendly people

In 2024, ACE encourages other RCEHT members to meet in person!

NEWSLETTER FEEDBACK

Please complete [this form](#) to submit relevant information or news you would like to share with the club in the next month's release. The more we collaborate and connect with each other, the stronger our club is in creating effective change to achieve our Rotary mission.

NEW APP EMPOWERS ANONYMOUS REPORTING OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Taylor Delandro

The following article is being shared and was originally on News Nation.

(NewsNation) — Human trafficking and transnational crime transcend borders, constituting what the United Nations describes as “a crisis within a crisis.”

Humanitarian issues are worsening amid Russia's war in Ukraine, leading to problems with human and weapons trafficking. The U.N. notes that the majority of refugees, primarily women and children, fleeing the war are now facing exploitation.

Jim Fuda, vice chairman of Crime Stoppers Global Solutions, said the organization introduced the anonymous tip app through a crime stoppers program in Seattle in November 2017. He highlights that it observed an overnight quadrupling of tips and more than doubled arrests. This success prompted Fuda to create the TCI Tips App and implement a similar program abroad.

“We picked human trafficking, terrorism, illicit trade, arms dealing, drug smuggling, cybercrime and bank fraud — brought it to Serbia,” Fuda said. “Took two years to build the trusted relationships ... here in Seattle in February 2020, to learn the operational side of things, and then COVID hit. So, we’ve been back reestablishing those connections.”

Fuda said reporting crimes through the app is a “seamless process.” Citizens can download the app, report a crime, and their location remains confidential once they submit the information.



“They can even attach video, audio and photos to it. Once they hit submit, all we know them by is a numeric identifier. The detective that’s investigating can even communicate back and forth with the tipster still not knowing who they are or where they are. It’s a matter of putting people at ease to know there will be no retribution for many kinds of corrupt law enforcement or the bad guy themselves that they’re wanting to report,” Fuda explained.

Fuda mentioned that Moldova, where a trusted connection familiar with the crime stoppers concept exists, reached out to them. They’re also gearing up to launch programs in Belgrade and Chişinău after the first of the year.

“I was in Chişinău in May, and it’s heart-wrenching to go to these intake centers of what’s happening to these people to no fault of their own,” Fud said.

NEW MEMBER HIGHLIGHT



Anastasia is our newest Branch member.

My name is Anastasia, and I am a 37-year-old virtual assistant at Theodora Ghana Virtual Assistant. I love using technology to get things done efficiently and make life easier for others. Working with a friendly attitude, I build great relationships with clients and colleagues. As the virtual landscape evolves, I enjoy staying updated and making a positive impact on others.



Anastasia Omari



Gifty Amoako

Gifty is our newest Branch member.

My name is Gifty Amoako, and I am 30 years old. I hold the position of Operational Manager at Theodora Ghana and excel in streamlining processes and enhancing organizational efficiency. With a keen eye for detail and a commitment to excellence, I play a pivotal role in driving the company's operational success and ensuring team coordination.

I have worked in education for two decades. I am trilingual in French, Spanish and English. In 2011 at Atlanta International School, I started facilitating a student-led anti-human trafficking group. I am the teacher liaison for CNN Freedom Project's #MyFreedomDay where I coordinates schools annually for a global day of action. I recently created the nonprofit FREEST, whose mission is to confront human trafficking by activating students and educators worldwide.



Veronica McDaniel



James Atak

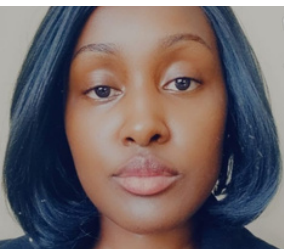
James is the founder and executive director of New Life Ministry (NLM) a charter ministry partner in Lift Up the Vulnerable's anti-trafficking network. NLM is located along the border of Darfur. During the Sudanese Civil War, James' village was attacked and he began a three-month trek by foot to Ethiopia with other Lost Boys. Violence in Ethiopia caused them to flee again toward Kenya. It was during this period that he was conscripted as a child soldier, carrying an AK-47 and leading other armed children.

When he was eventually released, James lived in the refugee camps in Kenya where he attended school, and eventually earned the opportunity for a visa to the USA. Just as he was about to travel, he had an epiphany, and decided to return home to protect and support other survivors of the warfare in his country. In 2005, NLM became the founding member of Lift Up the Vulnerable's anti-trafficking network that today spans Sudan and South Sudan. In 2018, James was awarded the Tanenbaum Peacemaker in Action award for his years of dedication to transforming lives in warzones.

My home club is Prior Lake Rotary where I co-chair the End HT committee. I am a retired Marriage and Family Therapist. In my free time I love hanging out with my grandkids and family.



Joan Lompart



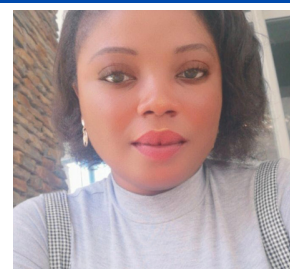
Pauline Njoroge

Pauline is our newest Branch member.

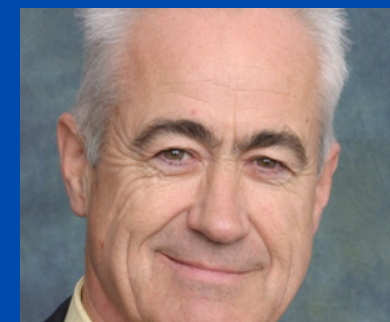
Professionally, a project manager and program coordinator with experience in agriculture, tech, and non-profits. Personally, passionate about social impact projects and believes in equality and equity for all.

Benedicta is our newest Branch member.

I'm Benedicta, hailing from Ghana. I'm a delightful mix of curiosity and eagerness to embrace new experiences, making every interaction a memorable experience.



Benedicta Gbadegbe



Simon John

Simon is our newest Associate member.

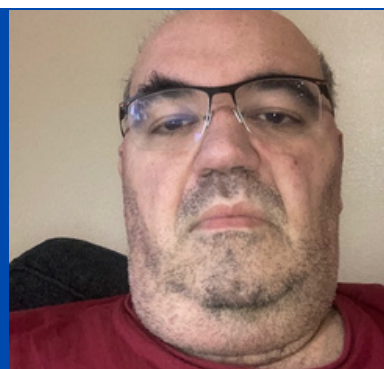
Lifelong member of Amnesty International, local Amnesty Group chair and Secretary for many years to date; life member of RAGAS, retired lawyer specializing in catastrophic injury claims for injured children and adults, Volunteer for Anti-slavery International.

Eustace is our newest Branch member.

I'm a Kenyan, working with Lift Up the Vulnerable an organization fighting human anti-trafficking in Sudan and Southern Sudan as a Program Coordinator. I have a Masters degree in Economics in Public Policy Management and a Bachelors degree in Mathematics and Computer Science.



Eustace Mwiti



Marc Hayot

Marc is our newest Associate member.

I am a journalist in Northwest Arkansas who is also part of the local Rotary Club. Last year I became the chair of the district's committee to end human trafficking. Over the last year I have raised \$1,000 for two NGOs fighting human trafficking.

Miriam is our newest Branch member.

I'm Miriam Larbi-Amoah, a young Ghanaian woman residing in Accra with my husband and three children. I am employed at Theodora Ghana Virtual Assistants, a social impact organization where I contribute to a meaningful project.



Miriam Larbi Amoah



Mary Mensah

Mary is our newest Branch member.

My name is Mary Mensah. I am 32 years old. I am a Ghanaian. I grew up in Ghana but was born in Liberia. I am from the Oti region of Ghana. The Oti Region is seen between the Northern and Volta Region. I am my parents' only child. Growing up was very difficult. I only completed Junior High.

After Junior High in 2007, I got pregnant with my first child, and after two years, I got pregnant with my second child. In Ghana, well-educated people finding a job with a good salary is hard.

Imagine completing junior high; life was tough for my children and me

Besides these little jobs, feeding the children, paying their fees, and my upkeep was tough.

I had to work hard for a little salary and do different I met a friend who introduced me to another friend who told me about the help Theodora Africa is giving to young ladies. I considered it for three years before agreeing to meet with the Theodora team for more explanations. I had a call to come for an interview on the 8th of April, 2022, and my second interview was on the 16th of April, 2022. I was then told I would be coming for training on the 1st of May.

I now work with Theodora Africa, where I had IT training before hiring me, and I also have a certificate for my training.

My role in Theodora is Social Media Management and Graphic designing. I also handle Theodora Ghana's social media and other clients' social media.

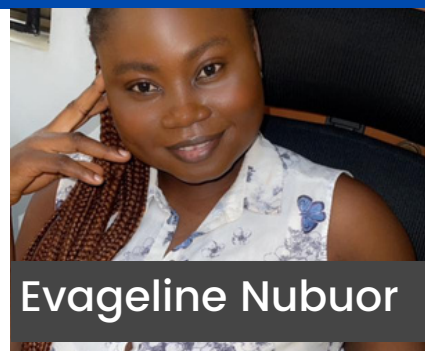
My name is Evangeline Naa Adoley Nubuor, and I am a Virtual Assistant at Theodora Ghana Virtual Assistant.

I have been working as a virtual assistant for two years.

In my free time, I enjoy writing books and empowering women.

I am passionate about providing excellent service to my clients and helping them achieve their goals. I am skilled in Bookkeeping, Research, and task management and have experience in Quickbooks.

At Theodora Ghana Virtual Assistant, we provide administrative and marketing support to small businesses in the US. Our goal is to help businesses do more with less by relieving them of tedious tasks and allowing them to focus on what they do best.



Evageline Nubuor



Anupam Saraph

For more than three decades, I have catalyzed innovation and systems leadership to enhance the resilience and sustainability of systems that safeguard the earth—its people, its plants and animals, and the natural systems on which all life depends.

CALENDAR & UPCOMING EVENTS

"Not in My Neighborhood - Oh Yes it Is!"

Please join 2myPlace and the Rotary Club to End Human Trafficking for a panel discussion of experts and survivors to heighten awareness of Human Trafficking in our community.

Naeshia McDowell, MPH - Director | CSEC Response Team, Children's Advocacy Centers of Georgia

Traci Hurley - Program Coordinator, Prevention and Training - Stephanie V. Blank Center for Safe and Healthy Children A Department of CHOA

Janice Johnson - National Legal Advocate and Survivor Leader for Her Song

Faythe Kadona - MS - Street Grace - Prevention and Protection, Law Enforcement and Legislative Policies

Veronica McDaniel - Executive Director and Founder of FREEST International

January 10, 2024 at 7 p.m.

Congregation Etz Chaim

1190 Indian Hills Parkway

Marietta, GA 30068



901 Macy Drive, Roswell GA 30076 - Phone: 770.815.6044
Non-profit 501(c)3 - EIN#81-1761365 - www.2myPlace.org



STANDING MEETINGS

The General Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month @ 7:00 AM CT (US / Canada). Visit our [website](#) for details.

CURRENT OFFICERS & OPEN POSITIONS

CURRENT BOARD

- President - Lisa Podolny
- President Elect Nominee - **OPEN**
- Secretary - Mary Fiadese
- Treasurer - Karen Walkowski
- Past President / Foundation Chair - Michelle Seets

Committee Chairs on the Board

- Programs & Projects - Erin Maloney
- Membership - Michael Podolny
- Public Relation- **OPEN**
- Fundraising - Karen Walkowski

Committee Chairs not on the board (non-voting)

- Speaker - Maria Moreyra
- Social - Anne DeLain Clark

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Club Action Day

DATE

Jan 11, 2024

Join us for this Action Day!

E-mail

president@endHTrotaryclub.org to request the meeting link.

SPEAKER

Ashlie Bryant

DATE

Jan 25, 2024

Ashlie Bryant is an innovator, leader, social entrepreneur, and advocate for children around the globe. She believes in the power of the human spirit and the ability of anyone to thrive and achieve