

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Rotarians,

The international Rotary theme for 2023-2024 is "Create Hope in the World". The Rotary Club to End Human Trafficking helps to provide hope in our communities around the world through our commitment to "Service Above Self." We welcome all individuals who are committed to making a difference in the world and the betterment of their community.



The Rotary Club to End Human Trafficking was formed for good reasons -- fellowship, networking and participation in community service projects. Members join together with passion and dedication to sponsor events, speak about the cause, make new friends and create business relationships. In addition to the typical findings: Programs and Projects, Membership, Public Relations, etc. We have many committees that address such areas as creating Economic Development and new Rotary branches in underserved areas where human trafficking is prevalent.

Rotary is not just a club that you join; it is an invitation to endless opportunities. We believe in creating opportunities for others and for ourselves. We believe that our acts of service, large and small, generate opportunities for people who need our help, and that Rotary opens opportunities for us to live a richer, more meaningful life, with friends around the world, based on our core values.

In line with our "Year of Action," this month's President's letter is focused on encouraging you to become involved in our club. There are many ways to share the resources and talents that you as an individual bring to our club. Join a committee if you have not already done so. If you are undecided what direction to devote your energy, write to me at president@endhrtrotaryclub.org. There are many opportunities for service.

As of today, we are already one third of the way into the Rotary year, and it will fly by in a flash. It is essential for new and more experienced members alike to focus on the real things our club does and dedicate ourselves to the tasks at hand. That is why I am asking you now to participate in whatever way suits you best so that we can proceed with all due diligence to meet the challenges that await.

We have a wonderful club with a proud history of many great accomplishments. We are gifted with many resources and opportunities to be of service. It is an honor and a privilege to be a member of Rotary, and I want to thank you all for accepting the responsibilities that go with being a leader in our community. Let us make the most of what we are to do the best we can.

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

HIGHLIGHTS

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

It is a known fact that lack of economic opportunity creates fertile ground for human traffickers. It is logical for a club devoted to ending trafficking to focus on changing that paradigm. As a club with a mission of preventing trafficking from even starting, it makes sense for us to focus on promoting economic development in areas where trafficking is taking place.

However, to call this an ambitious project is a gross understatement. It is an **EXTRAORDINARILY AMBITIOUS PROJECT**. It will take an incredible long-term, strategic mindset if we are serious about this. It will take A LOT of patience and commitment. It will take discipline. To understand how much work this will take, I suggest you watch this video (<https://vimeo.com/335510249>) shared with me by Anupam Saraph, which discusses how the fight to eradicate polio came to be



You will see how long it took and the challenge of getting Rotary behind this mission. Ending polio was a much easier task, relatively speaking, than stopping trafficking through economic development. To end polio, you simply had to get a vaccine dose into people – one step. Economic development is far more complicated. But you must start somewhere; we've developed our Phase One Project Design toward that end, which you should have received a copy of if you are on the club mailing list. If you have not, contact Michael Podolny (contact information below), and he will send it to you.

We are very aware that the path we are undertaking is going to be challenging. If economic development in areas where trafficking is prevalent were easy, we wouldn't face the human slavery issue as it exists. We must be humble, have great patience, and know we will have much to learn before finding the right formula.

It is essential that before we even begin, we reach out and seek input, opinions, experience, and wisdom from as many sources as possible! PLEASE! We sincerely request that you review the Phase One Project Design and email us your questions, doubts, concerns, challenges, ideas, and experiences. And PLEASE, if you know people involved with similar economic development around the world, connect them to us so we can get their input as well.

Only if we are willing to challenge all our preconceived assumptions will we come up with a program that is likely to succeed. Please send your feedback to both Michael Podolny and Colin Christensen.

Michael.podolny@theodoraghana.com
colin@thnq.ca

And if you would like to join us on the Economic Development Ad Hoc Action Group (EDAHAG) (I HATE committees but LOVE acronyms!), please let Colin or I know.

Michael Podolny
Rotary Club to End Human Trafficking

VISIT RCEHT SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES.



LUV Endorsed by RCEHT



The Programs and Projects Committee met in September to discuss whether to endorse Lift Up the Vulnerable (LUV), for which RCEHT club member Audrey Moore is the CEO.

With education, housing, medical care, nutrition, jobs and job training, LUV prevents trafficking of children and adults in South Sudan, Sudan and Kenya.

With RCEHT's commitment to prevention of human trafficking and economic development, the club Board endorsed LUV in good standing.

APPLY FOR RCEHT MEMBERSHIP WITH ONLINE APPLICATION!

RCEHT is thrusting itself into the modern age by making the application process completely online! No more downloading a document, filling it out, scanning it in, or taking a picture of it, then sending it back. Now, you **just click on this link**, and you are directed to the online form.

Fill it out and it automatically is filed, and the appropriate membership process people notified. Copy this link so you have it available to give to those you wish to recommend as members of the club. You can also find it on our website under the Get Involved tab.

RCEHT Endorsed HFC



RCEHT Board approved the endorsement of **Her Future Coalition (HFC)** which Robin Singer nominated.

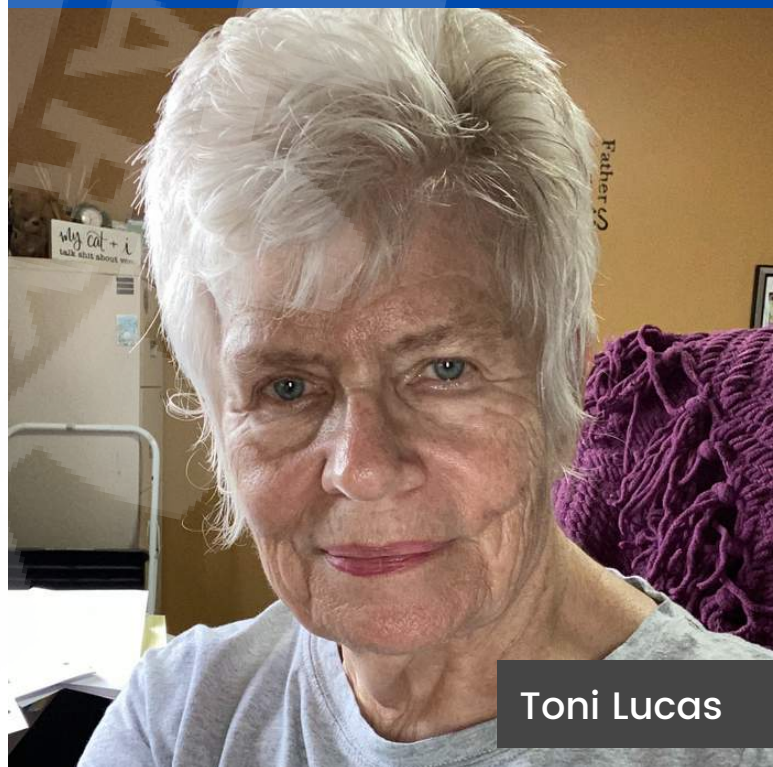
With education, Job creation, and providing shelter, HFC prevents trafficking and cater for survivors of human trafficking in India and Nepal.

With RCEHT's commitment to prevention of human trafficking and economic development, the club Board endorsed HFC in good standing.

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Antoinette Lucas, A.K.A Toni, is our newest club member who lives in the USA. She recently joined our club as an associate member but has now joined us as a full member of RCEHT. Per her bio written to the club board, "I am a farmer's daughter who is currently on my third career -- legal secretary, office manager, certified lay minister. I am a dual citizen of the USA and the UK, with four children and dozens of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. I became interested in human trafficking issues more than ten years ago when I heard Christine Caine speak."

Toni is passionate about religious services and serves as an Albany United Methodist Church pastor.



Toni Lucas

RCEHT NEW BRANCH PROGRAM



The Rotary Club to End Human Trafficking has always had the vision to be a global organization with a unified mission and program. The question was how best to achieve that. The visionaries of the Board recognized that only some kind of distributed structure would solve this challenge. We needed parts of the club meeting in various locales harmonious with their situation, environment, time zones, and culture. This led to the development of the Branch concept.

The Branch is different than a Rotary Club Satellite Club. It is not intended to lead to an independent club nor to have a completely formal Rotary Board structure. It is designed to provide the basis for broader program distribution (such as the Economic Development Program) in harmony with an overall strategy but customized to local situations.

It's great to have the idea. It is better when people will step up and help execute the idea. We are blessed to have members in our club doing just this.

Audrey Moore, through her program [Lift Up the Vulnerable](#), which works in South Sudan and Sudan, with offices in Kenya, has formed the East Africa Branch.

Justina Ansah and Mary Fiadese of [Theodora Africa/Theodora Ghana Virtual Assistants](#) in Accra, Ghana, have recruited their fellow cohorts and are the liaisons for the West Africa Branch.



The prospective members of these two branches have already been attending our meetings and some are already engaged with club work! It will be a number of months before the Branches become official, but we hope by the first quarter of 2024 to have definitive programs being put in place by the new Branches.

If you have contacts within the club or through other Rotarians in other parts of the world who would be interested in potentially forming a Branch, have them contact;

Michael Podolny, Membership Chair,
michael.podolny@theodoraghana.com.





Karen Walkowski recognized as a Rotary Foundation Major Donor



Karen Walkowski was recognized this summer as a major donor to the Rotary International Foundation. Major Donor Major Donors are individuals or couples whose combined giving has reached \$10,000, regardless of the gift designation. This recognition level can be achieved only through personal contributions, not recognition points.

Major Donors may elect to receive a crystal recognition piece and pin(s) commemorating the gift at each new recognition level. Karen achieved this by donating a minimum of \$1,000 yearly for the last ten years.

Her company's corporate match made Karen's efforts easier, which allowed her to contribute through direct payroll deduction, AND the company matched it. SO- Rotary International has added \$20,000 to the funds thanks to Karen's employer!

In honor of this achievement, Karen received a Major Donor Pin and a lovely crystal award showing the Dove of Peace (one of Rotary International's symbols). She was also invited to attend the Major Donor breakfast at the District Conference held on October 15th (see pictures)



At the donor breakfast, Karen learned some impressive facts about District 5950's generosity of giving. She learned that District 5950 was ranked first once again in giving to the Rotary Foundation in all of Zone 29 (region that includes the central corridor of the USA from Minnesota down through Texas). She also learned that District 5950 \$1,393,601 to the Rotary Foundation in FY 2022-2023, exceeding the amount given in the year prior to the pandemic.

Asked about her contribution, Karen noted that she is honored to be part of a district that is so generous and contributes so much to global issues.

Karen Walkowski

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



- **How long have you been a member of Rotary?**

Since joining this club in the late summer of 2020

- **Why did you join our club?**

To try to do something to end human trafficking in an international, online kind of way

- **What's your favorite part of being a club member?**

Working with people from all over the world

- **What committee(s) do you currently volunteer with?**

Programs and Projects Committee

- **What do you enjoy most about volunteering?**

Working with others, that is, trying to find a way that helps, using all our skills

- **What's one thing you learned in the last month?**

From an article in the New York Times: the first known hummus recipe was from 800 years ago; it didn't include garlic; it's from Syria or elsewhere in the Middle East... and that it is delicious (full disclosure: I found the recipe, but my husband made it)

- **What's something about you (a fun fact) that not many people know?**

My first trip I took all alone, both planning and doing, was in 1991 after graduate school, to visit Maine

- **What's the last book you read?**

Butter Honey Pig Bread, by Francesca Ekwuyasi



Erin Maloney



Michelle Seets

- **What's your favorite part of being a club member?**

Working with the diverse members of our club who live worldwide on an important issue.

- **What committee(s) do you currently volunteer with?**

The club's Foundation Board and the PR committee.

- **What do you enjoy most about volunteering?**

Getting to know people while being productive and making a positive difference. With our club's diversity, I have learned about different countries, cultures, and best practices from all over the world. With all volunteer groups, everyone can contribute, build skills, work on teams, and make a positive difference. Previous experience isn't a limiting factor. It is one of the many positives of volunteering.

- **How do you define success?**

Success is when I incorporate the lessons I have learned to become healthier and more authentic. Challenges, "mistakes," conflicts, and issues are all about the lessons for me. Name it, own my part, learn from it, incorporate anything I need to change and move on. That, for me, is a success.

- **What's one thing you learned in the last month?**

That my family is my number one priority. OK - I already knew that, but I really - really leaned into that in the past month.

- **What's the last book you read?**

I'm forever listening to books on tape and get through about two a week. Just finished book three from the Gentleman Bastard series by Scott Lynch.

- **What is your favorite hobby?**

Hmmm! Throwing pottery. It forces me to give up control. Over 10 years doing it and I'm still learning.

- **What's one item you can't live without?**

OK - I have 3, and this is part of my medical directive. (1) I don't remember who my children are. (2) I can't chew/enjoy food. (3) I am no longer mobile. If those three things are true then tap out, I'm done.



CALL TO ACTION

PROJECT IN A BOX



FOSTERING THE POWER OF ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE

One of our Strategic Plan objectives is to encourage and support economic stability in areas that are at high risk for human trafficking. One of our endorsed organizations, Her Future Coalition (HFC), does exactly that via their [jewelry program](#). HFC purchases then resells jewelry made by at-risk women then uses the earnings to repeat the process. This supports the jewelry business of trafficking survivors as well as at-risk girls and women in India and Nepal.

Metalsmithing and jewelry design is one of the many options that falls within HFC's job training program:

"Vocational Training, combined with life skills and financial literacy training, give women a pathway to become financially independent and less vulnerable to being exploited. They gain the power and agency to make choices for their own lives – often for the first time in their lives. Economic independence enables women to overcome stigma, move out of shelters, and support themselves and their children, breaking the cycle of poverty and intergenerational trafficking" – Taken from the HFC website

Are you interested in sporting trafficking survivors?
Are you interested in supporting businesses that keep women and girls from being trafficked in the first place?
Are you interested in a potential fundraiser for your club or group?

Then consider initiating this project in your community. Jewelry can be purchased through Her Future Coalition then resold by a club at a gala or other existing event. Rotary clubs are given a 20% discount off of the labeled price making this a potential fundraiser for the club as well as a wonderful way to support at risk girls and women.
Ready to place your order? [Shop](#) and use **ROTARY20 during check out.**

If you want more information, contact Rotarian Robin Singer at msrobinsinger@gmail.com.

The HFC jewelry program has been operating for more than a decade and keeps girls free from being trafficked or re-trafficked in red light and high-risk areas.

Take this step and make a positive difference.

SUCCESS STORY - STUDENT ACTION



#MyFreedomDay 2024

The faculty supervisor for Atlanta International School Against Human Trafficking, a student-led anti-trafficking group, and a CNN liaison and global conference presenter, Veronica McDaniel, founded [FREEST](#).

FREEST is extending an invitation to everyone to activate students for **#MyFreedomDay**.

CNN's Freedom Project gives students a global stage on which to collectively raise their voices against human trafficking, with the support of organizations, corporations, and communities everywhere.

According to the CNN Freedom Project, **#MyFreedomDay 2023** was a huge success. Tens of thousands of students in more than 140 countries participated by creating social justice activities. Here are some highlights from [#MyFreedomDay 2023](#), [2022](#), [2021](#) and [2020](#).

Please plan ahead of time for this event and start talking to your students about activities that can be done on your campuses. We are celebrating **#MyFreedomDay on March 14th, 2024**. Schools will plan on-campus events, along with taking part in CNN's social media campaign leading up to the student-led day of action. I will follow up with more details around January, along with a list of suggestions and ideas that schools can use to fulfill this project. In the meantime, [here](#) are some resources if you want help getting started.



NATIONAL TRAFFICKING SHELTERED ALLIANCE TO EXPAND ITS ALLIANCE REFERRAL SYSTEM WITH THE HELP OF ROTARY



The Parole Rotary Club of Annapolis and Rotary District 7620 have awarded the National Trafficking Sheltered Alliance a \$10,000 grant to expand the NTSA Alliance Referral System (ARS.) ARS is a network of over 100 shelters across the United States dedicated to enhancing resources and increasing access to care for survivors of human trafficking. [NTSA's Alliance Referral System \(ARS\)](#) bridges gaps between trafficking survivors in need and the shelters that walk alongside them on their healing journeys. The goal of the grant is to leverage the Rotary network and deep community ties to help identify candidate organizations to serve the needs of survivors of human trafficking.



Estimates show that there are likely up to 300,000 people being trafficked right here in the US. It is reported that less than 1% of those victims receive the aftercare they need to thrive. This problem generates a desperate need for thousands of survivors to find a safe place where they can heal and experience high quality, trauma-informed care.

"I cannot explain how very grateful I am. This will change my life and make me whole again." - Survivor Who Used ARS

With just one [online form](#), the ARS team matches survivors' individual needs to the available shelters in their network of 100+ services within 24 hours. Each referral represents a survivor in need taking a brave and powerful step on their healing journey after experiencing significant trauma within the commercial sex trade. Each one is an individual with their own story, hopes, and dreams - all from different walks of life - but all seeking a similar path towards a new beginning. For these survivors, placement in a shelter means access to trauma therapy, job training, a safe place to stay, and even legal services. As the anti-trafficking field continues to evolve, NTSA is leading the charge to expand ARS into an even larger and more comprehensive resource - onboarding new shelters to provide more options to survivors across the country. To date, this program has facilitated over 2,000 referrals for survivors in need with a 30% average growth rate each year.

With the Rotary grant funding, NTSA is actively recruiting additional services providers to grow its network with special focus on recruiting shelters assisting underserved communities of survivors - (i.e. male survivors, those in the LGBTQ+ community, those with dependent children, and those in states with few service or shelter options). For more information about this grant or to learn ways to be involved, please contact Rotarian Tom Hoffacker, at tomhoffacker@gmail.com or Danielle Ballard at d Ballard@shelteredalliance.org.

If you're interested in supporting survivors on their healing journey, you can learn more and donate to NTSA at: <https://shelteredalliance.org/>.

ACTION DAY SUMMARY



The previous Action Day meeting was held on Thursday, 28/09, which was based on club members getting to know themselves as an international club. We broke out into one-on-one sessions to get to know our East and West Africa club members on a personal basis. It was fun, social and educative. Here are some insights club members shared about the people they got to meet in the session. Looking ahead for working together internationally as a team.

Eustace is from Nairobi, Kenya. He works for an American company in Sudan and his parents were schoolteachers. Eustace got his master's degree in Budapest. He lives in an area that is suffering from the Sudan war. He has been married for four years and has a four-year-old son. He has a small farm where they grow mangos and oranges. They also have cows and goats. He is a sports fan who loves to play and watch soccer. He also enjoys picnics and hiking.

Toni Lucas

It was a delight meeting Cindee. She lives in Atlanta

She is a social entrepreneur who helps abused ones gain self-confidence by coaching them. Build trust in them; she serves as a therapist and a life coach.

Loves to be at the beach but enjoys helping others more.

Loves meditating, loves to make people comfortable

She worked 35 years as a pharmacist and retired.

Attracted to working with teenagers. In 2013, she was certified as a life coach.

Eva

I had a pleasure meeting Denise. She is married with three kids, and she owns two dogs. She loves pizza and loves traveling to the coastal areas because she likes being at the beach. She mostly feels cold outside, so she always carries a cover-up with her anytime she goes out. She's involved with an NGO that protects children from being trafficked.

Gifty Amoako

What I learned about Evie/ Eva is that she trafficked herself to get an income- thank God she stayed safe and is here to talk about it. Her passion is caregiving, healing, and making people feel comfortable and safe. She has a dream to become a nurse, but I suggested she become a Life Coach instead! Sort of a psychological nurse if you will. She has a lot to share; is a go-getter and is extremely passionate about writing, meditating at the Beach, and helping people. I know that if we lived closer to each other.... we'd be friends! Right now, we'll be online-internationally connected with each other- friends.

My Best,

Cindee

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.

CALENDAR & CLUB UPDATE

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.

GENERAL MEETING DETAILS

SPEAKER

[Horacio Pacheco](#)

DATE

Nov 09, 2023

TOPIC

RED NET4UAMERICAS

Mr. Horacio Pacheco is CEO of Auditoria D.C., an Argentine Company founded in 1969. He has 20 years of experience in analytical intelligence, business risk management, and professional services applied to prevent Transnational Organization Crime and Global Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing.

Visit our [YouTube](#) channel to watch any speaker meeting you missed.

CURRENT OFFICERS & OPEN POSITIONS

CURRENT BOARD

- President - Lisa Podolny
- President Elect Nominee - **OPEN**
- Secretary - Mary Fiadese
- Treasurer - **OPEN**
- 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

Pls Note: Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the general meeting scheduled for November 23rd has been canceled.