

ignite!

INSTALLATION MAGAZINE

THE ROTARY CLUB OF KITANTE



APRIL 2026

Rotary
Club of Kitante



Congratulations

David Balikuddembe

President Elect of the Rotary
Club of Kitante

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that will inspire
more fire in service
and move our
communities.



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Editor's Note



Welcome to another edition of Ignite Magazine from the Rotary Club of Kitante. In this installation edition, we present and congratulate our New President, Rotarian David Balikuddembe, and the new board.

The outgoing President, IPP Rotarian Maximilia Byenkya reflects on the year of Impact that was. She shares her personal experiences in serving the club, mobilising members to impact the community we serve. That service contributes to Rotary's global role in changing lives for the better.

The Rotary International President, Olayinka Hakeem, reminds us of the meaning of Impact. It starts from within. He urges us to look within our Rotary family, to examine our own values, attitudes, and commitment to service for impact.

You will also read about what impact means to selected members of the club and how they envision the Rotary Club of Kitante in making a lasting impact in the community. One of the areas where the club has had a celebrated impact is the Kamwokya Boys Mentorship Program with the Purple Skills Clinic. Read about this award-winning program and how it is giving hope to young boys in the community.

The Outgoing TRF Director shares his personal reflections on the journey to raising over \$30,000 for The Rotary Foundation and the Club, going on to win an award for this feat of selflessness.

The Club has expanded and inducted new members. Read their profiles and why some, like Duncan Kerungo, have decided to serve above self at a young age. His hopes and expectations for this journey of serving in the community.

We hope you enjoy it.

Rotarian David Birungi
Editor

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MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ELECT

- Rtn David Balikuddembe



Continuing the Legacy: A New Chapter of Impact for the Rotary Club of Kitante

As we gather at the Protea Hotel Kampala on this eve of Labor Day, we do more than celebrate a milestone; we honor a journey of nine years of service. This 10th Installation ceremony is a testament to the continuity that defines the Rotary Club of Kitante, a relay race where the baton is passed with precision, and the goal remains constant: Service Above Self.

Building on Solid Shoulders

Our progress is rooted in the foundations laid by those who served before us. I wish to acknowledge our Past Presidents, whose broad and solid shoulders have provided the elevation needed to see our future clearly. We do not seek to fit into their shoes, but rather to build upon the momentum of their leadership.

This spirit of “Yes” continues with the incoming Board of Directors and Assistant Governor Sharon, who have stepped forward with the biblical conviction, “Here am I, send me.” This team is ready to steer our club through a year of ambitious goals and transformative action.

Flagship Focus: Dignity for Kamwokya

The centerpiece of our mission for the 2026–2027 Rotary year is the Kamwokya Maternal and Child Health Project. In the heart of one of Kampala’s most densely populated areas, we are establishing a facility that represents more than just brick and mortar.

This project is a commitment to the dignity of mothers and the safety of newborns. By providing specialized care in the hours of greatest need, we aim to eliminate preventable complications and create a space where life begins with the care it deserves. We believe that when mothers are safe, families are stronger—and when families are stronger, our entire community thrives.

A Call for Partnership

To turn this vision into a reality, we need more than a dream; we need partners. We invite people of goodwill, corporate entities, and Rotary friends to stand with us. Whether through financial support, technical expertise, or advocacy, your contribution is the catalyst for this life-saving infrastructure.

A Heartfelt Appreciation

Finally, a leader is only as strong as the fellowship they serve. To every member of the Rotary Club of Kitante, my deepest gratitude. This appreciation is not just for the efforts put into this installation ceremony, but also for the unwavering support of all kinds, your time, your contributions, and your presence—that you consistently provide month after month.

Special thanks must also go to our Steering Committee, our dedicated service providers, and the energetic army of Rotaractors led by Santalucy. You are the engine that keeps our legacy in motion.

*Together, let us move forward with purpose.
Let us choose Kamwokya.
Let us create hope.*

MESSAGE FROM OUTGOING PRESIDENT



Dear Kitmates,

As I step down from the role of President, I am filled with gratitude for the incredible journey we have shared over the Rotary Year 2025/2026. It has been an honour to serve alongside such dedicated and passionate individuals. Together, we have made strides in our community and beyond, demonstrating the true spirit of Rotary.

In a special way, I would like to thank the Board and officers who have served during the year. I would also like to thank all our sponsors and partners, whose generous contributions have made service to the community possible.

I am proud of what we have accomplished together—our service projects, fundraisers, and the friendships we have forged. Each of you has contributed to our mission of making a positive impact, and I am inspired by your commitment to service above self.

As I transition out of this role, I leave with confidence in the leadership of our incoming president and the continued success of our club. I encourage each of you to continue your enthusiastic support, engagement, and dedication to our values and goals.

Thank you for your trust, friendship, and support during my presidency. I look forward to seeing where our collective efforts will lead us in the future.

Warm regards,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Byenkya'.

Yours in Rotary Service,
Maximilia Byenkya
Club President (RY 2025/2026)
Rotary Club of Kitante

MESSAGE FROM INCOMING AG

I wish to extend my warmest congratulations to President David Balikudembe on his installation as Club President of the Rotary Club of Kitante. David, your commitment to Rotary's core values, along with your clear vision and work plan for the year ahead, is truly inspiring. I am confident that under your leadership, the club will achieve remarkable milestones.

I have had the privilege of meeting several Kitante members already, and I am energized by your passion for service. I stand ready to support District Governor Gerald Obai in advancing our shared vision across the District, and I look forward to the Governor's official visit to the club.

President David and his board are well prepared for the task ahead. We recently concluded a focused board training in Temangalo, and the enthusiasm, clarity, and confidence in that room were unmistakable. This is a team ready not just to do good, but to lead the club from better to extraordinary.

To the members of the Rotary Club of Kitante: the year ahead is ours to shape. Lasting impact comes from consistent service, bold projects, and the fellowship that

binds us. Whether through Maternal and Child Health, Basic Education, WASH, or youth initiatives, let us measure our success by the lives we change long after this Rotary year ends.

The theme for the Rotary year is Creating Lasting Impact. As I step into my role as Assistant Governor for Area 29, I urge us to keep this theme at the forefront of our programming and actions. Together, we can translate it from words into tangible change for our community.

I pledge my full support to President David, the board, and every Rotarian in Kitante. I am excited for a great year of service as we serve to change lives and create impact that outlives us.

Yours in Rotary Service,
Sharon Nayebare Rutega
Assistant Governor, Area 29



THE CURTAIN IS CLOSING ON THE *UNITE FOR GOOD* YEAR, AND WHAT A YEAR IT HAS BEEN.

*By Rotarian Caroline Mboijana,
Outgoing AG*



For me, it's been deeply fulfilling. I still remember the call from DG Geoffrey Martin Kitakule in November 2024, asking me to serve. I was surprised and, honestly, a bit unsettled that it came eight months early. My first instinct was hesitation. Could I really do this? I even asked if I could think it over. There was silence... and then it hit me, this call hadn't come without thought. My answer changed

quickly.

Looking back, it was one of the best decisions I've made. For two reasons: I have learned so much about Rotary, and my "Rotary bug" has grown tenfold.

When I was told I would serve at RC Kitante, I felt a bit anxious. I knew the club and some of the members, but I wasn't sure how I would navigate that balance. I decided to face it head-on. The months of January to March became my learning phase, understanding the role, deepening my knowledge of Rotary, and positioning myself to both support and learn from the club.

Then I met President Maximilia Byenkya. And truly, I couldn't have asked for a better President.

We first met over coffee, just getting to know each other. I asked her one simple question: "*What do you want to be remembered for?*" Her answer was clear; she wanted to be known as the President who gave her all. As the year closes, I can say without hesitation that that is exactly who she has been.

President Maxi has led with commitment, dignity, and heart. She has given her time, her energy, and her patience. And through that, I witnessed RC Kitante's transformation.

The club showed up.

I saw members who were committed and passionate. I saw a TRF Director, Rtn Micheal Manzi, whose excitement was unmatched as he walked around with his briefcase ahead of the DG's visit, engaging members one by one. They responded. I saw service in action under Service Director Rtn Raymond Kalema. When you thought we were done, another project would emerge and be delivered with excellence.

Kitmates served with purpose, but they also knew how to have fun. The quiz nights? Loud, competitive, and full of life. They worked hard and played hard.

What stood out most was their self-honesty. They recognised where they needed to improve and did the work. Under President Maxi, governance strengthened. There was accountability. No avoiding

board discussions. No sugar-coating feedback from surveys. Just a willingness to do better.

And the results showed.

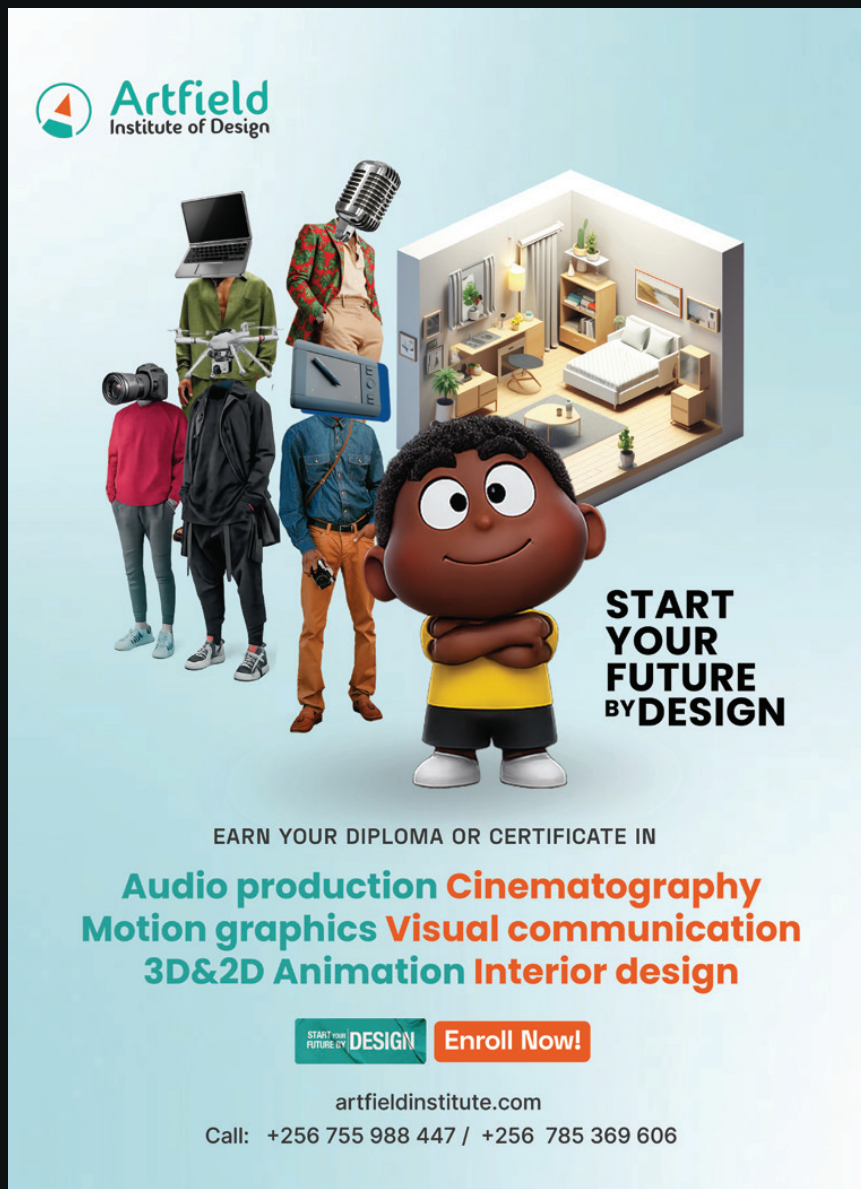
Strong giving to The Rotary Foundation. Meaningful service projects. Intentional mentorship through Interact and Rotaract. Youth skilling through initiatives like *Bake for Life* and *Purple Skills*. And intentional, screened, steady membership growth.

Working with RC Kitante has enriched my Rotary journey. I have made friendships that will last well beyond this year.

But more than that, this club reminded me of something simple: when members are committed, included, and passionate, the energy shifts. And that energy is what moves a club from ordinary to extraordinary.

RC Kitante is an extraordinary club.

It has been a privilege to serve as your AG. I hope I have served you well. And I have no doubt the foundation we have built this year will carry the next team even further.



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MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR ELECT

Dear President-Elect Rotarian David Balikuddembe
The Rotary Club of Kitante,

I congratulate you and your club on yet another important milestone in its commitment to service. Your installation not only signals a change of leadership but also celebrates service to the community and a renewal of our unwavering commitment to Service Above Self.

It is always an honour to be entrusted with the highest leadership position in a Rotary Club, a recognition of your abilities as a Rotarian. Grasp the opportunity and bring all those wonderful qualities to the fore. I invite you to embrace and enjoy your year as club president fully. The position offers you the opportunity to lead your team of dedicated members and create a lasting impact. 'Crazy Ideas and the Little Things' shall be our driving force for bold, innovative and creative ideas, while never losing sight of the little things that matter.

Whereas the expectations may sometimes seem immense, remember that you have a wonderful team in your club to work with. Rally all your club members to create an irresistible club experience. When our clubs are vibrant, our members are engaged, laughing together, and supporting one another, then service becomes natural. Each club member has a role in creating an unforgettable club experience. Let a positive club experience lay the foundation for attracting new members, building partnerships, serving the community, and giving to the Foundation.

Although I may not be in daily personal contact, "You Will Never Walk Alone." I have assistant governors, who are my eyes, ears, and presence in clubs. Additionally, I have put together a wonderful and dedicated team to support the clubs. Through regionalisation, you have strong support from district officers at your beck and call. A system designed to take our district forward.

After five very successful years, District 9213 now enters its last and final year. What a great opportunity to sign off on a historical high! District 9213 has built a legacy of leadership, innovation, and impact, from service projects to powerful partnerships and global recognition. As we transition into D9217 and D9218, let us not only build on that legacy, but carry it forward - stronger, wiser, and more ambitious. One such ambition is becoming an all-giving district. Every dollar counts. Let us create history together.

Let us embrace this transition with confidence, knowing that the future we are building will expand our reach and deepen our impact.

I once again sincerely congratulate you and wish you and the club the very best as you serve to Create Lasting Impact.

Gerald Obai

District Governor Elect 2026-27

Rotary International District 9213



MESSAGE FROM RI PRESIDENT ELECT

Creating Lasting Impact: President Olayinka Hakeem Babalola's Vision for Rotary

In a world facing complex challenges—from poverty and disease to environmental degradation—the call for meaningful, sustainable action has never been louder. Stepping into leadership with clarity and conviction, Rotary International President Olayinka Hakeem Babalola has issued a powerful message to Rotarians worldwide: focus not merely on change, but on creating lasting impact.

At the heart of his message lies a simple yet transformative idea—true impact begins within. Babalola urges members of the Rotary family to look inward, to examine their own values, attitudes, and commitment to service.

According to him, meaningful global transformation is rooted in personal growth. “Change is only the beginning,” he emphasises. “Impact is what endures.”

This philosophy challenges Rotarians to go beyond routine service and embrace a deeper level of purpose. It is not enough to initiate projects or meet targets; what matters is the long-term difference those efforts make in people's lives. For Babalola, sustainability and continuity are the true measures of Rotary's success.

His vision extends from the individual to the collective. When Rotarians commit to self-improvement, they strengthen their clubs. Stronger clubs, in turn, build stronger communities. And through this ripple effect, Rotary's influence expands across borders, creating meaningful and enduring change worldwide.

Babalola also places strong emphasis on the human element of service. He reminds members that every interaction matters. A welcoming environment, a kind gesture, or a moment of genuine connection can define someone's entire Rotary experience. In this sense, impact is not only measured in projects completed, but also in relationships built.

Equally important is his call for excellence. He encourages clubs to continuously raise their standards—to be more innovative, more inclusive, and more effective than ever before. Growth in membership, leadership, and service capacity is not just desirable; Rotary needs to remain relevant and influential in a rapidly changing world.

Particularly in regions like Africa, Babalola highlights the opportunity for Rotary to become a powerful force for unity, development, and leadership. By making clubs “excellent, attractive, and irresistible,” he believes Rotary can inspire a new generation of changemakers and expand its footprint across the continent.

Ultimately, Babalola's message is both a challenge and an invitation. It is a challenge to move beyond comfort zones and привычные routines, and an invitation to embrace a higher standard of service—one that prioritises lasting outcomes over temporary gains.

As Rotary continues its mission of service above self, this vision of creating lasting impact serves as a guiding light. It reminds every Rotarian that the true legacy of their work is not in what is started, but in what endures.

Because in the end, it is not change alone that shapes the future, it is the impact we leave behind

Rotarian Hakeem Olayinka Babalola
RIPE

NEW BOARD - 2026/27



IMPACT BOARD 2026-2027



CLUB MEMBERS

No	FIRST NAME	SURNAME	DATE JOINED
1	Anne	Abeja	13/12/2019
2	Andrew Amone	Baguma-Aba	01/6/2022
3	Semmy	Angeyo	1/1/2025
4	Lydia	Asiimwe	7/1/2022
5	Aggie Konde	Asiimwe	7/14/2022
6	Rebecca	Bagenda	2/4/2019
7	David	Balikuddembe	4/28/2022
8	Andrew	Banturaki	2/27/2020
9	Sarah	Bimbona	1/18/2018
10	David	Birungi	1/18/2018
11	Anna Mugenyi	Bitature	1/18/2018
12	Henry	Byabazaire	10/6/2022
13	Maximilia	Byenkya	1/18/2018
14	Haruna	Damba	11/7/2024
15	Deborah	Gasana	1/18/2018
16	Emmy	Hashakimana	5/18/2023
17	Dear	Jeanne	6/17/2019
18	Aggrey	Kagonyera	1/18/2018
19	Raymond	Kalema	12/1/2022
20	Christopher	Kaliisa	7/14/2022
21	Stella	Kamya	7/14/2022
22	Ashraf Mageye	Kanaabi	6/24/2025
23	Barbara Kamugisha	Kanyana	1/13/2022
24	Joseph	Kasaija	6/24/2025
25	Peter	Kasedde	1/18/2018
26	Sylvia	Katono	8/24/2023
27	Aggie	Kiguzi	3/14/2019
28	Irene	Kituyi	1/18/2018
29	Sheilla	Komugisha	6/24/2025
30	Anitah	Kubugi	12/13/2019
31	Betty	Kyakuwa	1/18/2018
32	Jonathan	Kyeyune	1/14/2021
33	Harriet	Magala	6/22/2023
34	Michael	Manzi	6/20/2019
35	Timothy	Masiko	11/7/2024
36	Ada	Mugenyi	3/14/2019
37	Gerald	Muhanguzi	3/11/2024
38	Caroline Wandera	Mukidi	7/1/2025
39	Edward	Musinguzi	1/1/2025
40	Divine	Nabaweesi	3/14/2019

41	Joan	Nabwire	6/14/2025
42	Amelyne	Nahabwe	6/24/2025
43	Sumin	Namaganda	1/18/2018
44	Jackie Rukare	Namara	1/18/2018
45	Omar	Ndangiza	2/27/2020
46	Stella Nkini	Ndiwalana	6/24/2025
47	Naome	Ninsiima	2/5/2026
48	Carol	Ntegeka	1/18/2018
49	Rebecca	Onyango	5/18/2023
50	Muganga	Patricia	11/7/2024
51	Rukundo	Roger	3/11/2024
52	Timothy	Sabiti	6/22/2023
53	Robert	Ssemakula	1/18/2018
54	Peter	Tumusiime	4/28/2022
55	Ronald	Tusiime	1/18/2018
56	Eric	Wampande	11/7/2024
57	Caroline Okabale	Adeke	6/30/2025
58	Amelo	Ejalu	6/25/2025
59	Kwame	Ejalu	11/18/2024
60	Isaac	Mwalye	3/26/2026
61	Emmanuel Elasu	Opio	3/26/2026
62	Aisha	Nanfuka	3/26/2026
63	Faisal	Namanya	3/26/2026
64	Jonathan	Kyetume	3/26/2026
65	Naome	Ninsiima	3/26/2026



What Lasting Impact means for me – Kitmates Speak Out

To me, lasting impact is about leaving people and communities better than I found them in a way that continues even when I am no longer directly involved. It is the kind of impact that changes mindsets, uplifts lives, and creates opportunities that others can build on.

As a Rotarian from the Rotary Club of Kitante, I hope to contribute by showing up consistently for projects and giving my time, skills, and heart to the causes we support. I want to be part of initiatives that not only address immediate needs but also empower people to sustain themselves and grow.

For me, it also starts with the small things—how I serve, how I support others, and how I represent the values of Rotary in my daily life. I believe that through these intentional actions, I can play a part in creating impact that truly lasts.

Aggie Kiguzi



Creating lasting impact is best defined by sustainability—ensuring that every initiative delivers long-term value, improves quality of life, stimulates economic activity, and builds resilience within communities. This approach emphasizes addressing root causes and protecting underserved groups, moving beyond short-term charity toward transformative change that empowers future-ready communities. Through its focus on education, youth empowerment, environmental initiatives, and health, the Club has embraced this vision, recognizing that meaningful, lasting impact depends on strong collective commitment and coordinated effort. I remain dedicated to contributing to sustainable, high-impact projects that continue to uplift our communities

Sumin Namaganda



Creating lasting impact involves actively engaging with the communities we serve by participating in projects firsthand, allowing beneficiaries to feel included, valued, and inspired to give back to others. It also means consistently contributing to The Rotary Foundation, no matter how small, as every effort counts toward meaningful change. Equally important is fostering strong fellowship among club members through regular meetings and shared activities, which builds unity and a cohesive team that is more committed and effective in serving together.

Abba Baguma



Creating Lasting Impact™ means walking alongside a community like Kamwokya and contributing to change that is not only visible today, but continues to transform lives for years to come. As a member of the Rotary Club of Kitante, lasting impact is about working hand in hand with the people of Kamwokya to address real challenges in ways that are means creating change that continues to transform lives long after a Rotary project has been completed. It is about moving beyond short-term interventions to solutions that empower communities, whether through education, economic empowerment, health, or mentorship, so that they can sustain themselves

Aggrey Kagonyera



To contribute to this impact, I am committed to actively participating in projects that build capacity and resilience within communities. I will prioritise initiatives that equip individuals with skills, support youth development, and strengthen partnerships that extend the reach and sustainability of our work.

Betty Kyakuwa





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KITMATES STAYED AND GAVE ME HOPE IN MY FIGHT AGAINST DERMATOMYOSITIS

By Santa Lucy Fungaroo

In October 2019, my life shifted in a way I could never have prepared for. I was a young girl trying to make sense of a body that no longer felt like my own, battling a rare autoimmune condition called dermatomyositis. At a time when fear, pain, and uncertainty had become my daily companions, I met a group of people from the Rotary Club of Kitante who went on to change my story..

Dermatomyositis is not just a difficult word to pronounce; it is a life-altering disease. It is a rare autoimmune condition where the body's immune system turns against itself, attacking the muscles and skin. For me, it meant chronic muscle weakness, intense fatigue, and visible skin rashes that often told my story before I even spoke. Simple life processes like walking, lifting my arms and even smiling without pain became battles. And beyond the physical toll, there was the emotional weight of living with something so rare, so misunderstood, and so relentless.

When the Rotary Club of Kitante first met me in October 2019, I was in a fragile place. I was tired physically, emotionally, and mentally. The journey ahead was uncertain, filled with hospital visits, surgeries, treatments, and moments where hope felt like a distant memory. But from that very first encounter, they didn't just see a patient or a problem to solve. They saw me and acknowledged me.

And they stayed.

Through every procedure, every hospital admission, every setback and every small victory, they held my hand sometimes literally, always figuratively. They became my support system and family. In moments when the weight of my condition felt unbearable, they reminded me that I was not alone.

Living with dermatomyositis often feels like fighting a silent war. There are days when the pain is invisible to others but deafening within. Days when the body refuses to cooperate, when hope feels fragile, when the future feels uncertain. But the Rotary Club of Kitante stepped into that silence and filled it with compassion, consistency, and unwavering support.

They showed up.

They showed up when I needed medical care I could not access alone. They showed up when the emotional toll became overwhelming. They showed up when giving up seemed easier than pushing forward.

And in showing up, they gave me hope that I had started to lose..

Hope that I could keep fighting. Hope that my story was not over. Hope that even in the middle of pain, there could still be purpose, love, and light.

What Rotary did for me goes beyond financial support or medical assistance. They restored my dignity. They reminded me of my strength when I could no longer see it myself. They stood beside me in my most vulnerable moments and never let me face them alone.

Today, my journey with dermatomyositis continues. It is not an easy road, and it is not one I chose. But it is one I walk with courage because I am not walking it alone. The Rotary Club of Kitante didn't just help me survive; they helped me believe that I could live, dream, and hope again. They reminded me that even in my most broken moments, there was still something beautiful worth fighting for. Because of them, I no longer see my scars as something to hide, but as proof of everything I have overcome. Because of you, Rotarians I wear my scars with pride! My skin does not define me, I am a star.

SERVICE PROJECT – KAMWOKYA CHRISTIAN CARING COMMUNITY (KCCC)

By President Maximilia Byenkya

In 2022, the Rotary Club of Kitante conducted a critical needs assessment and established that although KCCC was committed to enhancing access to Safe Maternal and Child Health Care Services among the AGYW to reduce maternal and child mortality rates in vulnerable populations, KCCC lacked:

- * The capacity to deliver more than two mothers at the same time. The ability to resuscitate babies after birth.
- * The capacity to handle critical emergencies before, during, and after delivery.
- * The capacity to conveniently transport mothers from the labor suite to the post-natal ward

In response to the above, the Rotary Club of Kitante established a sustainable partnership with KCCC to develop its capacity to handle Maternal and Child Health Care Service by donating an assortment of health equipment.

WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED

1. OXYGEN CYLINDER:

The hospital used to refer mothers and newborns to nearby government facilities because the oxygen cylinders were empty, and as a result, neither the newborns nor the patients could survive the transfer

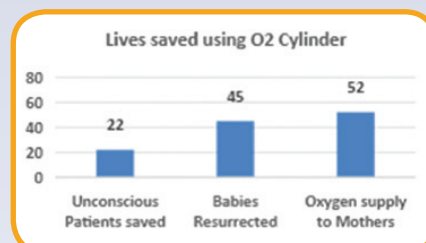
2. MICROSCOPE - This Microscope service has strengthened early detection and enabled timely, appropriate treatment, while the microscope supports key diagnostics such as urinalysis, stool tests, Ziehl-Neelsen staining, Gram staining, swab analysis, and sperm testing, allowing clinicians to make accurate diagnoses and deliver effective care.

3. VEIN FINDER:

This has facilitated easier identification of veins for cannulation during deliveries, neonatal resuscitation, and laboratory procedures in emergency centers.

4. HB METRE:

Timely screening, supported by the HB meter, has significantly reduced anaemia risk among pregnant and breastfeeding mothers and lowered overall anaemia incidence across the hospital, especially in the emergency department.



SR#	DESCRIPTION OF GOODS	QUANTITY
1	Delivery Bad	1 Piece
2.	Hospital Bed - Double Cranck	1 Piece
3	Emergency Trolley	1 Piece
4	Delivery Set	2 Units
5	Bedpan Plastic/Steal	2 Pieces
6	Wheel Chair - Standard (S.S)	2 Pieces
7	Bp Machine (Dial)	2 Units
8	Kidney Dish (M)	2 Units
9	Digital B.P Machine	2 Pieces

5. The vital signs monitor is essential in emergencies, tracking pulse, oxygen saturation, blood pressure, and temperature in real time enabling rapid intervention and reducing cases of shock, stroke, hypothermia, and hyperthermia, especially during emergencies and childbirth

6. WHEELCHAIRS

They have greatly improved patient mobility, particularly for post-delivery mothers and outpatients unable to walk, accident victims referred by traffic police, assault survivors, stroke patients, individuals with serious physical injuries, the elderly, and persons living with disabilities.

Their availability has enhanced the quality of patient care and hospitality throughout the treatment process.

MILESTONE CELEBRATION:

Since 2022, no deaths have been recorded at the clinic, particularly among mothers and newborns

Quick Fact

An electric kettle, donated by RC Kitante, was singled out by caregivers as an important utensil that determines whether a new mother can have a cup of hot water or a warm bath.



*Artistic impression of the major theatre proposed
at Kitante Maternal and Neonatal Care Facility in Kamwokya*

CHIEF JUSTICE EMERITUS, OWINY DOLLO ENDORSES THE KITANTE MATERNAL AND NEONATAL FACILITY



*The proposed Kitante Maternal and Neonatal
Care Centre*

KAMWOKYA BOY CHILD PROGRAM WITH PURPLE SKILLS KLINIK WINS DISTRICT AWARD



At the just-concluded District Conference, the Rotary Club of Kitante has been honoured with a prestigious award celebrating its support for the Boys Mentorship Program, an initiative transforming lives through practical education and opportunity implemented in partnership with Purple Skills Klinik in Kamwokya.

Nestled in the heart of Kyebando, a neighbourhood close to our community of impact, the Purple Skills Klinik a place of hope for young people seeking a pathway out of unemployment and vulnerability. With Rotary Club of Kitante's backing, the clinic has expanded its reach, equipping youth with hands-on skills in creative arts, digital media, and vocational trades.

The club's support has gone beyond funding. Through mentorship, equipment provision, and community mobilization, Rotary members have helped build a nurturing ecosystem where young people can learn, grow, and confidently step into the

A Partnership That Changes Lives

The award shines a spotlight on what can be achieved when service organisations and grassroots initiatives work hand in hand. Rotary Club of Kitante's collaboration with the Purple Skills Clinic has empowered dozens of young people with employable skills, while also strengthening community resilience.

Graduates of the clinic are already making their mark, starting small businesses, securing creative industry jobs, and mentoring others within their neighbourhood.

This recognition positions the Rotary Club of Kitante as a leader in sustainable community development. By investing in the future of the Boy Child's skills rather than short-term aid, the club has demonstrated a model that addresses root causes of poverty and unemployment.

One thing is clear: the partnership is a blueprint for meaningful, lasting change in urban communities like Kamwokya.

Course	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Deejaying	5	7	6
Graphic Design	5	3	5
Videography	4	5	3
Photography	3	3	2
Web Development	3	2	0
Data Analysis	0	0	4
Total Students	20	20	20

Meet Some of the Beneficiaries:



- Kiyingi Elivic (A.K.A Kante) and Kulaba Robert (A.K.A Frozen), both school dropouts from Kamwokya slums, struggled to make ends meet. Their lives changed when they joined Rotary Club of Kitante & Purple Skills Clinic Foundation's Kamwokya Boy Child Program.

Through mentorship and training in digital skills, Kante studied graphic design while Kulaba studied videography after gaining practical skills there joined and co-founded Kante & Frozen Events. Kante handled the graphics and frozen doing the videography.



With support from the foundation, they successfully hosted three major events, including a New Year's Eve celebration on 31st December 2024 at TLC, featuring artists like Gurnede Officially and DJs from Skills Clinic.

The official MC was also a program graduate. Now earning a stable income, they support their families and mentor other young boys in Kamwokya. Their journey from poverty to entrepreneurship proves that with the right support and determination, anyone can build a brighter future.

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A SITDOWN WITH PURPLE SKILLS KLINIK FOUNDER

Mr Douglas Lwanga

Douglas Lwanga (born May 1, 1984) is a prominent Ugandan media personality, event organizer, and social entrepreneur. He is widely recognized for his influential role in the Ugandan entertainment industry, particularly as a television host for major music and variety shows

Mr Lwanga is the Executive Director of the Purple Skills Klinik Foundation, a registered NGO focused on solving youth unemployment through skills training and mentorship in creative arts and ICT. He sat down with our own Rotarian Stella Ndiwalana to share his vision for youth empowerment

I. The Vision

- ***What inspired you to start the Purple Skills Clinic, and why did you decide to focus on the Kamwokya community?***

So, in brief, you can call me a creative entrepreneur, someone from the creative arts. I am a graphic animator. I'm a media personality, which is how most people know me. I'm an event organizer and the team leader here at Purple Skills Clinic. I'm very passionate about creative arts and about young people.

When I did my bachelor's in mass communication at Makerere University, I expected to learn everything about media and multimedia, including presentation, editing, graphics, camera, and all those things. Unfortunately, when I went out after my four years, I was green about everything. So, there was a small video production company called MGS Videos on William Street that took me on as an intern, and that's where I learned the skills that helped me move into TV. But that opened my mind to the fact that the young people we see coming from these higher institutions of learning often can't get jobs because they have the degree or diploma, but not the skills. Employers aren't looking at your paper. They're looking at the skills you bring to their company. So that gap is what I saw needed addressing, and that's where Purple Skills was born.

The clinic's mission is to reduce unemployment, support school dropouts to become useful and denounce crime. Core programs include two-month courses with a practical focus on filming, videography, and photography, featuring a mandatory AI module to ensure these youths remain relevant in a rapidly changing environment. Talent placement is either through deploying among our partners for apprenticeships with Radio and TV stations, using an Agency, Net Gain to find



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placement for the graduates, or some find placement on their own; most of them are self-employed. At the end of the course, a UVTAB certificate is issued to the graduates.

From your experience, what are the main challenges that disadvantaged youth in Kampala face when trying to join the modern creative economy?

The biggest challenge before they acquire the skills is funding, but after they acquire the skills, it is the lack of equipment in their trade! For example, getting a DJ kit costs UGX. 15,000,000, and that is not easily available.

II. The Rotary Partnership & Impact

- ***The Scholarship Legacy: The Rotary Club of Kitante gives scholarships to its students each year. How has this steady support changed the path of your clinic and the students you help?***

The Rotary scholarship has been a great intervention, especially because it targets the boy child! The boy child is hardly considered, and this is how society is, so having a specific program for boys has earned us respect in the community. The LCs bring us youth to train because the program saves the boys from bad vices.

The scholarship earns these youths a UVTAB certificate, which is recognized internationally and ISO-certified. This certificate costs UGX. 80,000, and this scholarship facilitates that.

- ***Can you share a story about a graduate, such as a DJ, photographer, or video editor, whose life was truly changed by a Rotary-funded scholarship?***

Oh yes I have some young people like Hudson, and there is another young man at Salt TV who is a presenter and recently started his own show on the Ghetto community. Hudson, who learned Graphics and video editing, was contracted by an NRM candidate in the last elections who saw his work and took him to the NRM Secretariat to do campaign artwork for them. He paid the young boy UGX. 5,000,000, and this young man came back to me to show me what he bought himself! A laptop and an iPhone! His client paid him and advised him to buy these two items to complete the work on time. This young man has gone on to support his family as we speak. He pays fees for a few young children in his family.

So, this scholarship has a ripple effect in the community. I wish we could increase the numbers.

- ***Continuity: As we mark our 10th installation, how would you describe the relationship between your clinic and the club over the years?***

The continued focus on empowering youth with practical skills not only aids their individual growth but also contributes to community stability and reduced crime rates.

Put plainly, transforming a would-be thief or one of those paver-hitting gangs is no mean feat. I pray this partnership continues to flourish.

III. Flagship Alignment: The Kamwokya Project

- ***Community Health vs. Skills: This year, our main project is the Kamwokya Maternal and Child Health facility. How do you think a better health infrastructure in Kamwokya supports your work in skills development?***

Whereas I appreciate the focus, I think there are more critical areas that require intervention: mental health and HIV. The people impregnating the girls in this community need Mental health interventions. HIV talkability has dropped, so the numbers are growing. These communities are vulnerable.

At Purple Skills Clinic, our approach to teaching practical skills is like therapy for these young people.

- ***Holistic Development: Why do you think it matters for groups like Rotary to support both health and skills development in a community like Kamwokya?***

Teaching skills helps prevent young people from becoming menaces to society.

On the health side, I feel the critical areas have been left out, yet they are most needed in this community. Mental health is extremely important, and interventions will also go far in mitigating some of the pregnancies among young girls that end up as single mothers. The HIV numbers are rising in these communities due to lack of knowledge.

The Maternal and Child Health facility is also a good intervention. I also urge the project to consider putting up counseling services.

IV. Looking to the Future

- ***The Next Decade: With new leadership coming in, what message would you like to share with the incoming Board of Directors about the future of youth empowerment?***

I thank the outgoing board, actually, from Dr. Sarah Bimbona's time. I request that we find a way to scale up the number of boys and consider equipping Purple Skills, so the youth can hire the equipment and start as soon as they complete the skilling program. The lack of equipment is a major hindrance to the youth who have acquired the skills.

- ***A Message to the Members: What would you like to say to the Rotary Club of Kitante members who give their own resources to make these scholarships happen?***

I cannot thank them enough for sparing their time for the youths. They have support in financial literacy

V. Closing Thoughts

- ***Final Reflection: In one sentence, what does the partnership between Purple Skills and Rotary mean for the dignity of the Kamwokya community?***

The partnership between Purple Skills and the Rotary Club of Kitante exemplifies a successful model for community development.

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TRF: HOW WE RAISED US \$30K. A STORY OF FAITH, URGENCY, AND A CLUB THAT REFUSED TO SETTLE – By Rotarian Michael Manzi

“Fate leads the willing—and drags along the reluctant.”

— Seneca

I didn’t choose to become the TRF Director at the Rotary Club of Kitante. If anything, I resisted it.

The room fell into that uncomfortable silence that follows a question everyone hears, but no one wants to answer.

At the time, I had contributed just US \$300 to The Rotary Foundation. Before I could recover, Rotarian Ken Mugisha issued a challenge and, almost as an afterthought, announced me as the incoming TRF Director for 2025–26.

That moment changed everything.

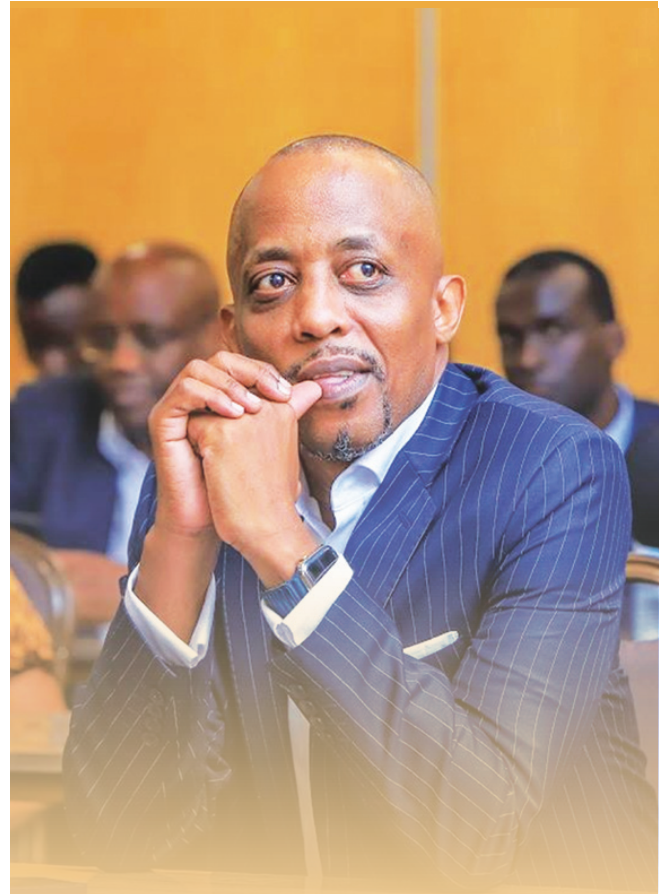
I quietly slipped out, drove to an ATM, withdrew US \$700, and returned to complete my PHF contribution in cash. It was impulsive, slightly dramatic—and deeply personal. I hoped that would be the end of it. It wasn’t.

A few weeks later, seated in church at All Saints Cathedral, Kampala, I heard a sermon that stayed with me:

“Blessed are those who find wisdom...” — Proverbs 3:13

Until then, I had measured success in material terms. Faith was present, but not central. Giving felt optional. That day, something shifted. I began to see service, not just money, as a form of tithe. And suddenly, the role I had tried to avoid started to make sense.

When the Rotary year began, I set an ambitious goal: to raise US \$30,000 for The Rotary Foundation, the highest in our club’s history, and to compete seriously at DISCON 2026. But I knew mass appeals wouldn’t work. So, I did something simple, but time-consuming: I spoke to members one by one. Not speeches.



“Blessed are those who find wisdom...” — Proverbs 3:13



Conversations.

I asked what they could give, how they preferred to give, and when. What came back surprised even me. On paper, commitments exceeded US \$30,000. It felt optimistic, maybe overly so, but it was a start.

The real test came sooner than expected.

On August 7, 2025, just a month into the Rotary year, we were preparing to host the District Governor. The program included PHF pinning.

Only two members were scheduled.

For a club like ours, that wasn't just underwhelming, it was embarrassing.

That afternoon, I made a decision. I picked up my phone and started calling members one after another.

My message was simple:

Let's not be that club tonight. I asked them to contribute at least half of what they had committed—immediately. What followed felt almost unreal. Members responded instantly. Some showed up with cash. Others sent mobile money. A few asked me to collect contributions directly from their workplaces. By evening, we had raised over US \$10,000, most of it in cash, carried in my laptop bag. That night, we rewrote expectations. The District Governor was impressed but not satisfied. He doubled our target to US \$20,000. For the first time, I didn't see it as pressure. I saw a possibility.

Momentum built quickly.

By November, we hosted our first major PHF fellowship. Sixteen members were pinned. Contributions had crossed US \$16,000. Photos circulated across Rotary circles, and something shifted within the club. Pride turned into belief.

By mid-December, we had surpassed US \$20,000.

But along the way, something deeper was happening. Conversations about contributions became conversations about purpose, faith, and giving. Members opened up about what they could give and why they were giving.

This wasn't fundraising anymore. It was a transformation. Then came the next realization: US \$20,000 wouldn't be enough to win at DISCON. We raised the bar again to US \$30,000. And the club leaned in. As a club, our total giving to TRF by the evening of 26th March 2026 stood at a whooping US \$ 28,500.

District 9213 Governor,
Rtn Geoffrey Martin Kitakule



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With less than a week to DISCON, I made one final appeal and said a quiet prayer. Then something remarkable happened. Messages started coming in. Contributions \$200, \$400, \$500 arrived one after another.

Major contributions followed. During our second PHF fellowship, we had achieved:

- 31 PHFs
- 1 Major Donor
- US \$28,500 in contributions

The goal was within reach.

But the final stretch proved the hardest.

The remaining US \$1,500 stalled. Members had stretched themselves. The economy was tight. Momentum slowed. With less than a week to DISCON, I made one final appeal and said a quiet prayer. Then something remarkable happened. Messages started coming in. Contributions \$200, \$400, \$500 arrived one after another. Members who had already stepped forward again. Others joined in.

Contributions \$200, \$400, \$500 arrived one after another. Members who had already stepped forward again. Others joined in.

Within hours, we crossed US \$30,000. Not because of one big donor—but because of many small acts of commitment.

Looking back, the numbers tell part of the

- Over US \$30,000 raised
- 32 PHFs and a Major Donor
- A record-breaking year
-

But the real story is what changed within us.

We became a club that believes in its own potential. A club that shows up. A club that gives, not out of obligation, but conviction.

Today, our sights are set even higher: becoming a top-tier TRF club, standing alongside leaders like the Rotary Club of Upper Kololo and the Rotary Club of Kampala Central.

Because now we know what's possible.

And more importantly, we know what we're capable of when we move together.

Rtn. Michael Manzi (PND)
TRF Director 2025/26

INDUCTED- WHY I HAVE CHOSEN TO SERVE ABOVE SELF

Over the years, I have seen the lives of people in the communities transformed through the projects conducted by Rotarians across the region. These projects normally revolve around the eradication of poverty, basic education and literacy, community empowerment, and environmental conservation, among other areas.

As an economist and finance professional, I have a strong passion for these areas. Joining Rotary, therefore, is not just a membership for me; it is a strategic opportunity to actively participate in touching the lives of the most vulnerable. It allows me to provide practical, data-driven solutions by offering my financial contributions and professional expertise.

Additionally, Rotary offers me a chance to grow my leadership skills, network with like-minded people, and offer services above self. Joining a diverse club like Rotary Kitante has helped me appreciate culture, learn new approaches to serving, and even understand the world better.

Finally, the Rotary Four Way Test strongly aligns with my personal values and, hence, my yardstick in everything I do.

*Rotarian Duncan Kerongo
Inducted March 2026.*



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