

Annual Report 2023-2024

Rotary Club of Roatan Utila Guanaja



Club # 225723
District 4250

"We, the people of action, will engage the community of Bay Islands and seek to create projects that improve the lives of people, their environment, and infrastructure where required"

The Rotary Club of Roatan Utila Guanaja (RUG) is in the legal process of getting the Honduran NGO status and RTN.

The Rotary Club of Roatan Utila Guanaja (RUG) applied for its club charter on 20. May 2023. At this point in time RUG had 22 charter members, due to issues outside of our control our application was delayed. With the support of the sponsoring club The Rotary Club of Marion NC. #6028 of District 7670, and the encouragement of the 2023-24 District Administration for District 4250, RUG provisional continued as planned with its community service involvement. With the excellent advice and guidance of Past District Governor Honey Kleinberg District 7490 and District Governor Elect Nominee Alex Portelli District 7670

The Rotary Club of Roatan Utila Guanaja was chartered on November 15th 2023 with 32 members.



RUG Provisional

The delaying of chartering RUG has had profound economical consequences for the club, and projects that were planned for the rotary year 23-24. There were rotary clubs both in Europe and the US who were planning to apply for a district grants to support our projects, but as we were not a chartered rotary club with a club number, by their grant deadline they were not able to apply for these grants.

Also due RUG not getting chartered until 15 November 2023, it inhibited the application of a District 4250 grant for Service Projects for the rotary year of 23-24. RUG still plans to do these projects, but due to the lack of funding in 23-24 they have had to be pushed to the Rotary year 24-25.

Regardless of our provisional status, our club acquired two dentist chairs and two autoclaves from an anonymous donor, who believed in the work we were already doing as a provisional club across the Bay Islands and that we would be able to send the equipment where it was most needed. As clinics on Roatan have received several dentist chairs from the same donor we shipped the dentist chairs and autoclaves to Utila and Guanaja where they were placed at Programa Dental Escolar Municipal on Utila and CESAMO Savannah Bight on Guanaja.

We participated in a Medical Brigade, Dia de Niño, and Beach Cleanups with other organisations. We also organised a Community Cleanup, and introduced our Activity Day for Adults with Disabilities and Dental Hygiene and Prevention projects, these two projects were continued through out 23-24.



Dentist Chair donated to the Provisional Rotary Club of Roatan Utila Guanaja, Placed and in use at the CE-SAMO Savannah Bight, Guanaja.



It takes a team



The Chairs, are ready for transportation to Utila and Guanaja



Medical Brigade Child Minding Station



“Getting our signage ready for the Medical Brigade and our Childminding station, while we still were a Provisional Rotary Club”

RUG Chartered

The Rotary Club of Roatan Utila Guanaja was Chartered on the 15 of November 2023, from that point in time we quickly grew to 36 members. We continued working on the community service projects we already were a part of, as well as that we now were able also to look at larger projects where we would need to collaborate with other rotary clubs and organisations for funding.

There have been several international rotary clubs who have expressed their interest in collaborating with us on projects now that we are chartered. Some of the projects will be completed in 23-24 and some that we are still in the planning phase as they will need Rotary Grants, and will therefore not come into effect until 24-25.

As a newly chartered rotary club, we have focused on growing our rotary clubs reputation by using the Rotary International Brand Center for material, having meetings with community leaders, politicians, international rotary clubs and other organisations on Roatan, Utila and Guanaja. But also making sure not to forget that the island of Roatan has two municipalities.

Doing community assessments so to be able to prioritise smaller and larger projects, prioritising what communities have the greater need, but also so we can get to know the needs on all of The Bay Islands.



*Our Club Advisor DGN Alex Portelli presenting us with our Rotary Club Bell, from our Sponsoring Club **The Rotary Club of Marion NC.** This bell has a **Rotary History**, It used to be the Rotary Bell of The **Rotary Club of Mc Dowell County***

Club Board & Committee Chairs 23-24



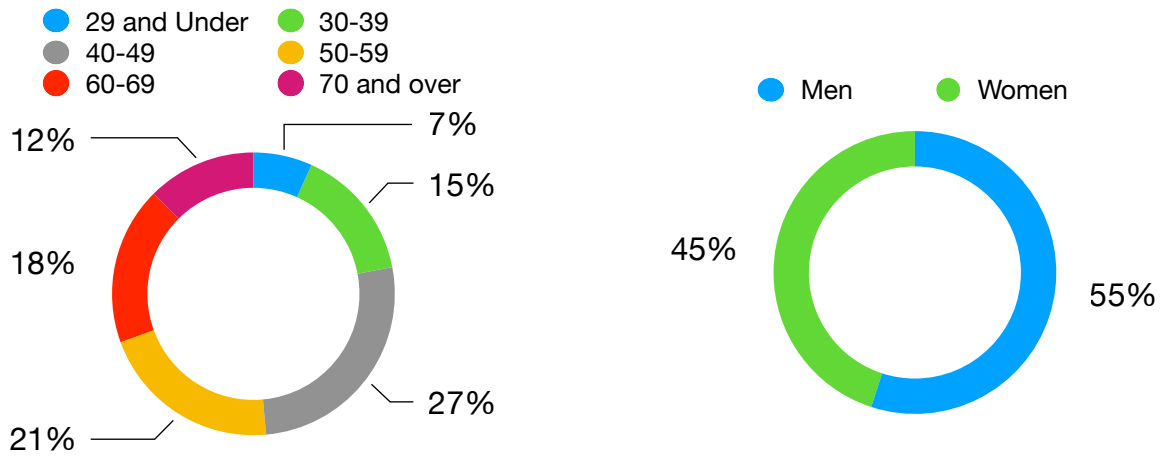
Diversity Equality Inclusion

The club has deliberately worked to have a diverse group of members, making sure to have members living on all three of the most populated islands in the Bay Islands. Our focus on Diversity Equality Inclusion (DEI), also extends to ethnicity, disability, learning style, religion, age, nationality, socioeconomic status and gender.

When compiling our RUG Board we made sure to have the same diversity, with regard to, age, nationality and gender, but also making sure to have members from all three islands represented on our board.

Our club has decided to also use the DEI method when choosing what Community Service Projects to do, as we are a club for the Bay Islands. It is therefore utmost important that we keep in mind the individuality and needs of each island as we plan our projects, making sure to use the local knowledge we have due to our members geographic placement throughout the Bay Islands, So that we as a rotary club are able to serve the Bay Islands population to the best of our ability.

Members Age Demographic at Chartering Club Gender Ratio When Chartered



When doing Community Cleanups it is important to have the whole community participating. This gives the members of the Community ownership for their Community Cleanup, and we as a Rotary Club are there fit the material necessary and as motivator, volunteering with the people of the Community. We have also found that having a gathering after where we and the community together organise food for everyone ensures a positive outcome of the cleanup session.



Service Projects

We have decided to split the RUG service projects into two categories based on the frequency, funding and difficulty level. Community Service Projects and Service Projects. Our most popular **Community Service Projects** with regards to visiting volunteers and participants, is our Activity Day For Adults with Disabilities, we have had seven activity days in 23-24 with an average of 3 guest volunteers and 20 participants.



Activity Day for Adults with Disabilities



Dental Hygiene and Prevention

Community Service Projects 23-24

1. Activity Day for Adults with Disabilities
2. Beach Cleanup Roatan
3. Beach Cleanup Utila
4. Beach Cleanup Guanaja
5. Activity Day Disabled Guanaja
6. End Plastic Soup, with schools
7. Three Islands Cleanup
8. Community Cleanup
9. Medical Brigade
10. Dental Hygiene and Prevention
11. Dia del Niño
12. Layettees to Guanaja



Three Island Cleanup



Dia de Niño, The Honduran Navy and The Provisional Rotary Club of Roatan Utila Guanaja helped to make this day a Special day for the Children who live in the Community of Hottest Sparrow and Mud Hole at " The Roatan Dump"

As RUG is a rotary club for the Bay Islands, we do our best to implement Rotary's principle of DEI also when choosing **Service Projects**, and prioritising them. This is exemplified by the fact that we have different project being completed on each of the islands. During the rotary year 23-24 we have been able to plan and complete 6 service projects, two while we were a provisional club and four since we became a chartered rotary club. These are all medium sized projects, where we are working with international rotary clubs and other organisations. As mentioned above, there were several projects that due to our delayed chartering date, we were not able to apply and get the supported funding/ grants for therefore we have had to push to them to the rotary year, 24-25.

Service Projects 23-24

1. Crawfish Rock Church, Roatan Municipality, Funding: Five Islands Sisters. For more information use link: Rotary Showcase https://map.rotary.org/en/project/pages/project_detail.aspx?guid=F1F2E13B-9F1F-43AC-A653-650B79BA513C
2. Kindergarten "Jardin De Nino Nail Estrada", Santos Guardiola Municipality, Funding: Chico Sunrise Rotary Club, CA. For more information use link: Rotary Showcase https://map.rotary.org/en/project/pages/project_detail.aspx?guid=2ACAF79-6995-48E4-99CD-06861C2DFC99
3. Guanaja Freezers, Phase 1, Guanaja, Funding: Rotarians, from North Carolina and Virginia. For more information use link: Rotary Showcase (https://map.rotary.org/en/project/pages/project_detail.aspx?guid=C2AEC74E-BC8C-4BF6-94FF-6924A8959986)
4. Operation Blindspot, Utila, Funding: Heimdal Rotary Club, Norway. For more information use link: Rotary Showcase https://map.rotary.org/en/project/pages/project_detail.aspx?guid=0F57AC62-F7B1-4155-A26C-8373F5F831B1
5. Get Donated Dentist Chair Utila operational, Utila, Funding: Utila Municipality and Heimdal Rotary Club, Norway.
6. Handing out Layettees for new mothers on Guanaja, Facilitated for the Rotary Club of Beaumont TX



Rotarians and community members discussing the possibility of a larger Service Project

Environmental

We have an environmental focus in everything we do as a club. The club participates with and continues learning from other established organisations here on the Bay Islands who are focused on bettering the environmental footprint. Several of our speakers topics have had an environmental focus. We have noticed that these meetings are appealing to guest rotarians, across international borders. Our club has during 23-24 organised and/or participated in 1 Community Cleanup, 2 Three Island Beach Cleanups, 14 Mangrove and Beach Cleanups.

We had two larger environmental pushes this year. The first was an Electronic Recycling Day, on Roatan Utila and Guanaja. We partnered with multiple municipalities and other organisations to get the word out, and help get the recy-

clables to the designated spots. The second was organising End Plastic Soup day, across the Bay Islands where we had schools on all three islands participating. In total we had 6 schools out doing cleanups and they picked just over 800 bags of rubbish. We also encouraged The Rotary Club of Marion, NC our sponsoring club to join which they did. They participated with a street cleanup in McDowell County, NC USA.

We are also in the process of planning our participation for an Agro Forestry Project, Mangrove and Mahogany replanting project and Organising Recycling Days and information for schools and the public. All of which should come about in the Rotary Year 24-25.



Would you like to be a part of the solution!

Rotary
Club of Roatan Utila Guanaja



Friday, 31 May 2024

All schools on the Bay Islands are invited to join in an Action Day. Schools across the world will be participating on this day doing cleanups in Rivers, Shorelines, Towns and Beaches!

We will be supplying with bags and gloves. Participating schools will receive a certificate.

If you would like to participate let us know before May 25!

Contact post@rcorug.com or

Roatan : WhatsApp +504 9726 9725

Utila : WhatsApp +504 3273-4430

Guanaja : WhatsApp +504 9760-0835

There were schools on all three islands that participated, and in all four municipalities. We were also happy to see that schools who have not been a part of our cleanups earlier were interested to participate, and that they all wish to have further collaboration with us for cleanups, and education regarding the impact of plastic on the environment. During the 2024-25 rotary year. During this cleanup, the schools filled just over 800 large rubbish bags.



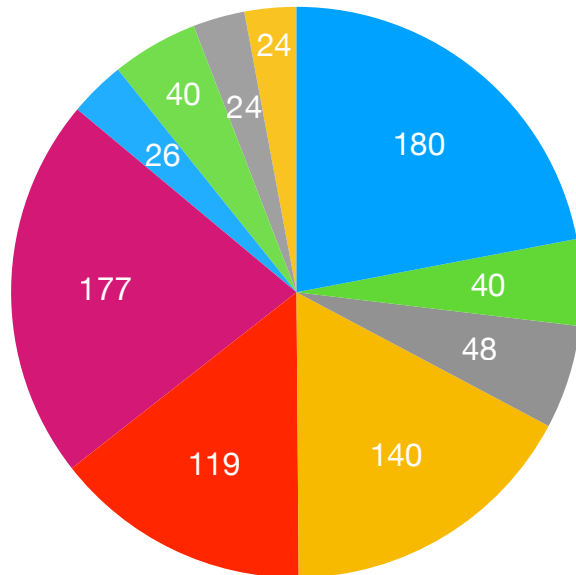
Volunteering

As a Rotary Club of Action, our members are committed to volunteering where it is needed, during this rotary year we have participated regularly as volunteers with other organisations. As we believe that working together for a common goal makes us stronger. Volunteering with and supporting other organisations is also a vital part of creating and enforcing community ties and club recognition as a rotary club that is there for the communities.

Organisations we have volunteered with this year are La Fuerza Naval de Honduras, Cattleya Education Center, Bay Island Costal Cleanup, Sparkle, Popular and Progressive Youth of Guanaja and Bay Island Conservation Association. All in all our RUG members have donated 822 volunteer hours to our projects. This is not including the hours that guest volunteers or volunteers from other organisations donated.

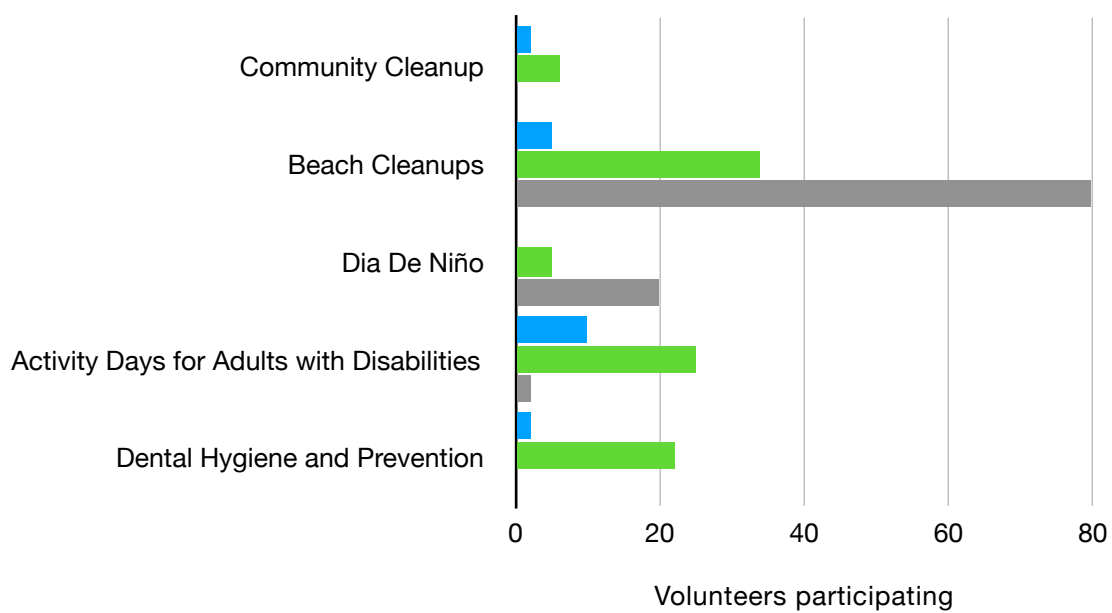


- Cleanups
- Medical Brigade
- Dia del Niño
- Informational stands and meetings
- Layettes to Guanaja
- Dental Hygiene
- Activity Days for Adults with Disabilities
- Fundraisers
- Kindergarten "Jardin De Nino Nail Estrada"
- End Plastic Soup



Club Members Volunteer hours used per project.

- Guest Volunteers
- Members
- Partnering Organisations

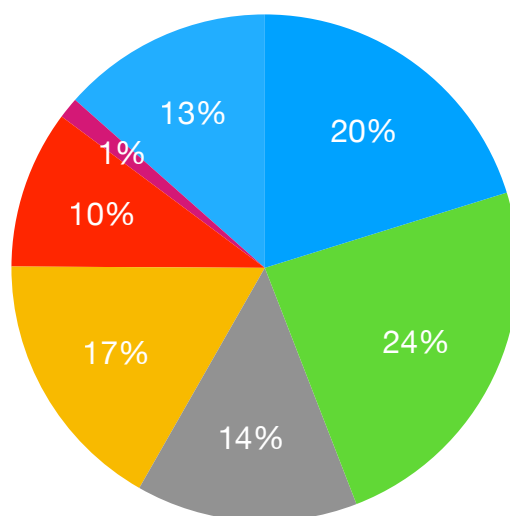


Fundraising

Our club not being chartered until November 15th 2023, and the uncertainty surrounding when we would be chartered did create some limitations to our effectiveness to fundraise in this Rotary year. The Club therefore decided to partner with Cattleya Education Center, and have a concert as a fundraiser event, and an online auction. Fifty percent of the proceeds went to the community service project: "Activity Days for Adults with Disabilities" this is a project we have been doing in conjunction with Cattleya as they brought it to our attention that there is no alternative for people with mental disabilities as they age out of Cattleya at the age of 18. The board of Cattleya have also expressed an interest to us regarding a possible larger project extending the Education Centre to become a Lifetime Centre with place also for the adults. On Guanaja, we have had one Bingo fundraiser, as well as that they have an auction of a 6 burner stove we were donated from Hotel Guanaja. Utila held a Movie evening as their mini fundraiser.

We have as well as the donations in kind for our Fundraisers, also received donations in kind and economical sponsoring from several Businesses, organisations, other Rotary Clubs and people wishing to support our work.

- Activity Day For Adults with Disabilities
 - Rotary Club of Marion NC
 - Mahogany Bay
- Personal Donations
 - Other Organisations
- Heimdahl Rotary Club
 - Chico Sunrise Rotary Club



Club Donations in percentage

Membership

We have during the rotary year had two informational / recruitment meetings for interested parties, one on Utila and one on Guanaja. Both meetings were well attended and resulted in us receiving membership applications. On Roatan we had informational stands at well visited Arts n' Crafts Fairs. This resulted in interested parties being guests at our meetings, signing up to volunteer at our Community Service Projects, as well as people asking for membership applications. We also have a Club Trifold Brochure, which we have downloaded from Rotary Internationals Brand Center and modified with our club information which is in distribution on Roatan, Utila and Guanaja.

Our club was open for Corporate memberships and in 23-24 we had three corporations who chose to have a corporate membership.



Informational Stand at Island Arts and Crafts

Public Relations

We started this year with an article about our club published in the Rotary Nordic Magazine, this was the first of seven larger articles published about our club, and its activities. As we are a chartering club it has been important that we as a rotary club have a solid Public Relations Strategy for our club to use, thus to ensure that we are in compliance with Rotary Internationals guidelines.

The strategic communication plan outlines how we are able to promote the club, get recognised for the work we are doing, thus engaging and attracting, new potential members, organisations to partner with as well as organisations and businesses that would like to sponsor our work.

Our PR team works with all our committees to ensure it has relevant information for articles, social media films, and blurbs. During 23-24 we have updated our Facebook heading monthly with the RI theme, weekly we have had mini articles/blurbs regarding events and volunteer possibilities as well as information and invitation to our weekly meeting. As well as expanding our presence on several multimedia sites.

Our PR committee has also ensured that all our other committees have had informational material necessary to do their work, and that everything our club uses is in-keeping with RI branding regulations.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100092237574333>

WEB Page: <https://portal.clubrunner.ca/17816/Page/ShowHomePage>

Speakers

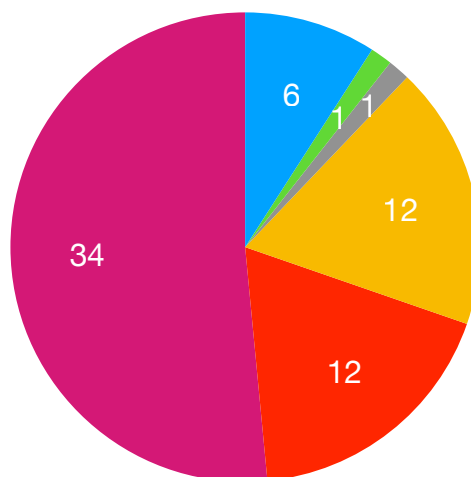
During 23-24 we have had twenty-seven speakers who covered a multitude of topics. Eighteen of our speakers were domestic, presenting topics related to the three Bay Islands. Eight of our speakers were from Rotary, presenting topics from our Rotary Learning Plan. We also had guest speakers from other rotary clubs, presenting projects we are and will be a part of. We scheduled our speakers following the Rotary International Month Themes, as best possible. We have made sure use speakers suggested by our members, from all three islands.

Education

As a chartering rotary club, it has been important for us to focus on educating our new rotarians, making sure to have rotary history as a part of our weekly meetings. We were also privileged as the district held a Chartering, mini PELS for us and The Rotary Club of Hopkins, for which all of our Board members participated, as well as several of our club members. We have also had members from the board attend all the District Seminars held during 23-24. All of our incoming board members have taken the recommended Rotary International Learning Center courses for their position, and our Foundation Chair participated at District Foundation Seminar both for 23-24 and 24-25. Our President attended PETS (Presidents-Elect Training Seminar) for 23-24 as well as PELS (Presidents-Elect Learning Seminar) for 24-25.

The District of where our Sponsoring Club, The Rotary Club of Marion NC held an online PELS for the whole incoming Club board, that all incoming board members attended.

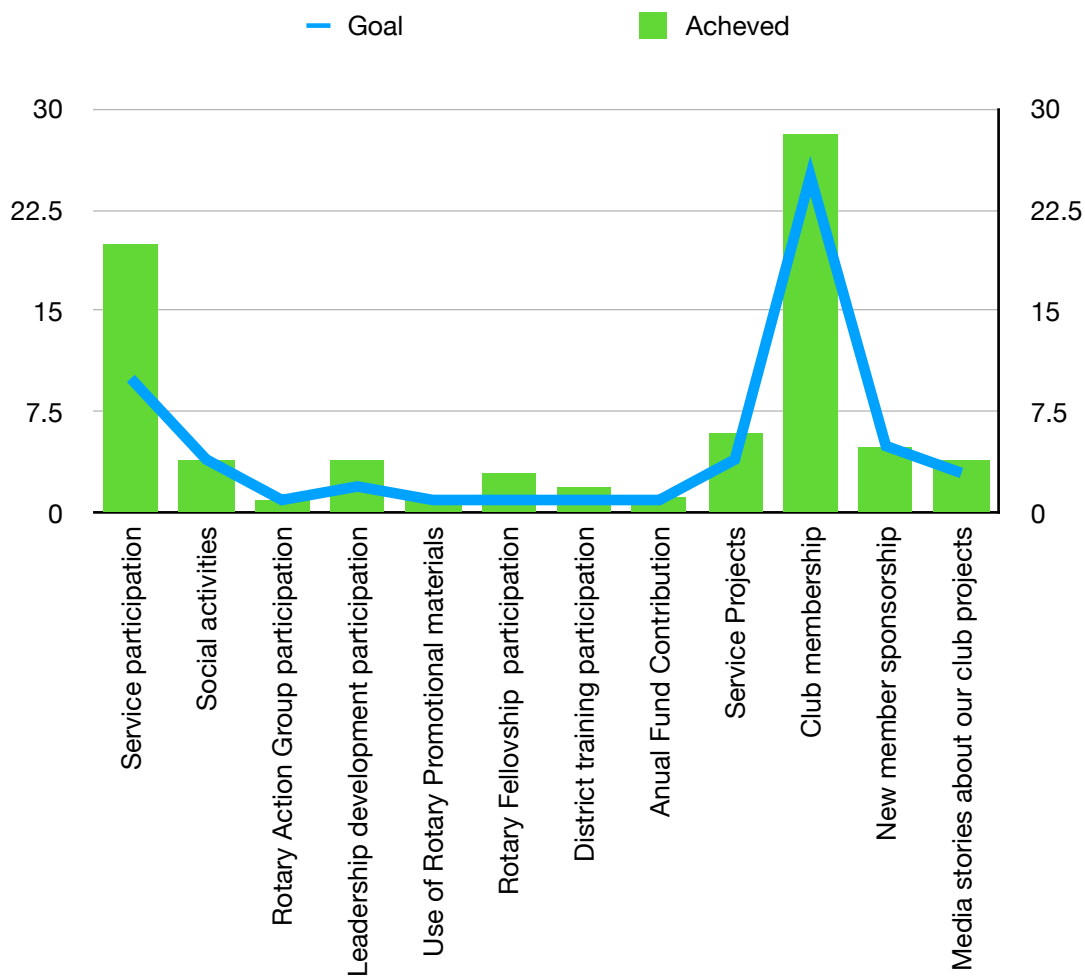
- DISTRICT SEMINARS 23-24
- GALS & PELS
- FOUNDATION SEMINAR
- BOARD TRAINING PELS
- COMPLETED REQUIRED ROTARY INTERNATIONAL COURSES
- CLUB EDUCATION



Club Training Participation

Rotary Goals and Achievements

In the eight and a half months since The Rotary Club of Roatan Utila Guanaja were chartered we have achieved all of the goals that we set out to achieve during this rotary year and in doing so we have achieved what was known as the Presidential Citation, but is now more accurately renamed to The Club Excellence Award. We achieved this by completing 15 of 15 goals we set for 23-24.



Goals and Achievements for 23-24

Gratitude

We are grateful to the companies who have sponsored and supported our work during the 2023-24 rotary year. Without their support we would not have been able to achieve what we have this year. As well as that they have committed to continue to support us in the rotary year of 2024-25.

