



December 2021
Issue 6

The Perfect Gift

Savi Bhim, Assistant Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator

December is perhaps the 'funnest' month of the year. It is the time for holidays and traditions and connecting with families and friends. It is also the time for gift giving and the pursuit of finding just the right gifts for our loved ones.

Yet as Rotarians we give gifts all year long, all over the world, through our humanitarian services.

Ever since The Rotary Foundation made its first grant of \$500 to the International Society for Crippled Children in 1930, Disease Prevention and Treatment remains our strongest area of focus and it is Rotary International's theme for December.

According to a UNICEF report on how water supplies affect children living in areas of conflict, it revealed that children under five, are 20 times more likely to die from illness linked to unsafe water and bad sanitation than from conflict.

Every year, 85,700 children under-15 die from diarrhea linked to unsafe water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities.

This is the reason clean water and sanitation is Rotary's largest health activity after polio. It is considered the single most effective way to fight diseases.

Polio eradication remains our number one priority. But the campaign has done much more than just focus on polio eradication. Through this program

we have immunized children from a multitude of other diseases and provided vitamin A supplements. This alone has saved millions of lives.

And now the polio eradication infrastructure that our members helped build has been leveraged to effectively address COVID-19 through strengthened health systems, surveillance and contact tracing.

The gift of health and wellness is the gift of hope and when you have hope you have everything. As Mahatma Gandhi said *"It is health that is the real wealth, not pieces of gold and silver"*

So the next time you are disappointed because you did not get that perfect gift for your loved one, know that because of your contribution to the Rotary Foundation you have given the gift of health and wellness to someone else's loved one. A person whose face you may never see, whose name you may never know, *but know that somewhere in the world there is a mother, a father, a friend who is thanking you for giving their loved one the perfect gift.*

On behalf of the Ubuntu team, I wish each and every one of you an awesome holiday season.

And as someone said, may your troubles be as short lived as your New Year's resolutions.

See you in 2022!



The
Rotary
Foundation



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UBUNTU



Ambassador Elizabeth Frawley Bagley has served in three presidential administrations as a diplomat in numerous positions at the Department of State, and as the Special Representative for Global Partnerships in the Office of the Secretary of State.

"In understanding the responsibilities that come with our interconnectedness, we realize that we must rely on each other to lift our world from where it is now to where we want it to be in our lifetime, while casting aside our worn-out preconceptions, and our outdated modes of statecraft. This is the place where we all belong as partners, where we all participate as stakeholders, and where we all succeed together, not incrementally but exponentially."

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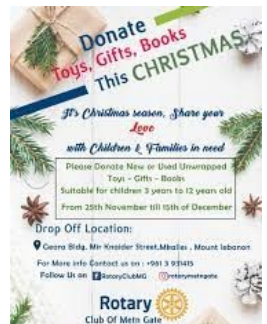
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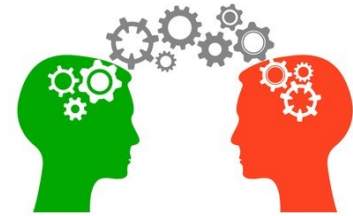
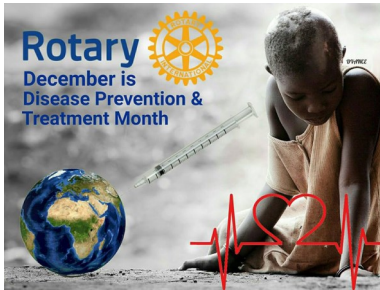
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The holiday season reminds us to take time and enjoy our loved ones while extending a warm smile and helping hand to neighbors with fewer resources. In addition to undertaking countless projects during the year, many Rotary clubs and districts throughout the world - from California to Shanghai and from Ireland to Brazil—Rotarians organize special activities to help spread holiday cheer.

From hosting food drives to serving hot meals to seniors to purchasing presents off a wish list, our Rotary family brightens this season.





In Case You Don't Know, Now You Know

Ever wonder why Rotarians call each other by their first names? In 1925, Rufe Chapin a member of the Chicago Rotary Club explained that it is the first step that breaks down the individual who “suffers from an overplus of dignity” and he reminded those who found it uncomfortable that it was the specific objective of the 1905 Rotarians to penetrate the shells of ego and pomposity and reveal the real man inside. This simple gesture bridges gaps that divide humankind and put the emphasis instead on what they have in common.

Harry Ruggles was the fifth Rotarian in the world. Being a printer, he designed the first Rotary wheel emblem. Ruggles was at the second meeting of Rotary and Paul Harris suggested him as the 'printer' for the new organization. The sixth Rotary meeting took place at his printing shop. The tradition of singing at Rotary Club meetings is credited to him. One night in 1905 there was a lull in the meeting and conversation had inexplicably ended. Ruggles sprang to his feet and called out, “Hell Fellows, let’s sing!” He led them in the singing that night and many more nights to follow and it became a tradition. He printed the first book of songs in 1910.

Globally about one in 700 babies is born with a cleft lip or palate. This happens when a child’s palate, lip or both do not fuse together. In 1992, members of the Rotary club of San Francisco created a project called Rotaplast where volunteer doctors would surgically repair cleft lips and palates. Today Rotaplast International is an independent nonprofit and has worked in 26 countries carrying out surgery and providing dental and orthodontics care and speech therapy. The organization also supports education for medical personnel in the host countries.

The Rotary Foundation—Did you know?

December is Rotary’s Disease Prevention and Treatment Month, Rotary—one of Rotary’s Seven Area of Focus. We celebrate our devotion to fight diseases and create healthier communities around the world.

Rotary’s Impact on Disease

Rotary’s top priority is the eradication of polio, but our members take on far greater responsibilities to fight disease. We lead efforts both large and small. We set up health clinics, blood donation centers and training facilities in undeveloped countries and in communities struggling with HIV/AIDS, malaria, COVID-19 and more. We design and build the infrastructure that allows doctors, nurses, patients and governments to work together.

Rotary believes good health care is everyone’s right. Yet 400 million people in the world can’t afford or don’t have access to basic health care.

Rotary Makes Things Happen

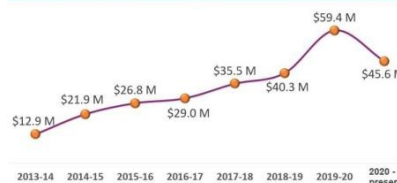
Rotarians combat diseases like malaria, HIV/AIDS, Alzheimer’s, multiple sclerosis, diabetes, and polio. Prevention is important, which is why we also focus on health education and bringing people routine hearing, vision, and dental care. We educate and equip communities to stop the spread of life-threatening diseases. Rotary members have hundreds of health projects underway around the world at any given time.

Rotarians Dedication to Fighting and Preventing Diseases

Disease prevention and treatment takes on many forms, from supporting studies to helping immunize people to improving drinking water and the sanitation infrastructure. The world relies on Rotary to tackle these global challenges, and to set an example for others to follow.

The Rotary Foundation chart verifies our members’ increasing dedication to fighting and preventing diseases. Since 2014, **3694 disease prevention and treatment grants** totaling USD \$271 million were awarded by The Rotary Foundation. Our members’ TRF-funded activities in this area of focus continue to grow year over year.

DISEASE PREVENTION & TREATMENT TOTAL FUNDING BY TRF YEAR TO YEAR





Each year, The Rotary Foundation awards up to 130 fully funded fellowships (50 fellowships for master's degrees and 80 for certificate studies at premier universities) for dedicated leaders from around the world to study at one of our peace centers. Rotary's commitment to peace and the generosity of Rotarians around the world combine to make the Rotary Peace Centers program distinctive and successful.

Peace Fellows Make A Difference

When the Khmer Rouge swept through Cambodia in 1975, they captured a six-year-old name Path Heang. Separated



from his parents, he was thrown into a forced labor camp where is spent years under the relentless sun digging canals, planting rice, herding cattle, and picking up dung for fertilizer.

After the regime was overthrown, Heang went to college and after graduation worked to help Cambodian farmers improve their crop yields while also persuading them to turn in their weapons. Friends talked him into applying to the center at the University of Queensland in Brisbane in 2002. He earned his degree in 2004 and became a program officer with the World Bank in Cambodia and eventually chief of a UNICEF field office. *"I am in a senior position because of the analytical skills and tools I learned as a Peace Fellow. Now I can influence national policy for the poor in Cambodia."*

Ryan Carrier, a Peace Fellow from Canada, became a war crimes prosecutor for the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. Another Peace Fellow Kouame Remi Oussou of Core d'Ivoire, worked with the United Nations Development Programme in the Central African Republic, helping disarm and demobilize combatants and reintegrate them as peaceful civilians in society.

Since the program began in 2002, the Rotary Peace Centers have trained more than 1,400 fellows who now work in more than 115 countries. Many serve as leaders in governments, NGOs, the military, education, law enforcement, and international organizations like the United Nations and the World Bank.

District 5300 Together Let's Clean the Rio Grande

More than 500 Rotary club members and volunteers from both sides of the border joined together on a community project **"Together Let's Clean the Rio Grande"**.



The Rio Grande River, which begins in the mountains of San Juan de Colorado Rio Bravo, serves as the international boundary between Mexico and the United States, before it flows into the Gulf of Mexico. As the river flows from its origins in Colorado down through the Mexico-US border, the levels of pollution and garbage accumulation grow. All these foreign and toxic materials that end up in the river, eventually find their way to the Gulf of Mexico. River

pollution has been a concern and US authorities issued a warning to migrants and the Border Patrol about the danger. The further the river advances there is more pollution. The river has become a garbage dump for many people and the volunteers collected everything from Styrofoam plates and cardboard to glass and plastic and even tires and clothes.

The goal is to make Rotarians and the community aware of the need to take action to protect the world and to raise awareness in the community, the private and public sector, the community in general.



Bresa Alvarez, president and founder of the Rotary Club of San Bernardino, California, and who led the initiative in Ciudad Juarez, highlighted the importance of implementing environmental care to change. She said: *"Global warming is a reality and what we want to achieve is to make the community aware that the environment needs our help, and that our actions and our responsibilities have an impact."*

The Rotary Club has carried out previous cleaning days where they have managed to collect a total of 9.5 tons of garbage at the border.



**District 5300
Conference**

**June 23-25, 2022
Renaissance Esmeralda
Resort & Spa**

District 5240

Holiday in the Village

For 26 years, the Rotary Clubs of Westlake Village has brought the community the favorite Westlake Village Street Fest.

Now the Rotary Club of Westlake Village and the Rotary Club of Westlake Village Sunrise have joined forces and invite you to their signature event **Holidays in the Village. A European Marketplace.**

Holidays in the Village provides a magical experience that transports guests into an authentic European holiday market. Shop for hard-to-find and handmade gifts from around the world while taking in the sights and sounds of the holidays. Guests can savor the traditional food and libations ranging from European Bier and steaming Glühwein to smoked sausage and European pastries which can be enjoyed in the Village MerryMaker's Entertainment Center filled with traditional and holiday music.

Welcoming guests of all ages to Sip, Shop and Savor at Holidays in the Village. A European Marketplace. Other Marketplace features the Village Teddy Bears, Scavenger Hunts, Photo Opps, Cookie Decorating including Kris Kringle Village, an entertainment stage, 60 artisans and cuisine vendors, traditional holiday events, along with traditional European food & beverage options.



- ◆ ARTISAN VENDORS ◆
- ◆ TRADITIONAL EUROPEAN FOOD & BEVERAGE ◆
- ◆ GLUEHWEIN & SPECIALTY CRAFTED BREWS ◆
- ◆ KRIS KRINGLE'S VILLAGE ◆
- ◆ FESTIVE ENTERTAINMENT ◆
- ◆ VILLAGE TRAIN & OTHER MERRYMAKING ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES ◆



From January through November 2021 there have been **two** new cases of the Wild Polio Virus. It is now at **4 cases of Wild Polio Virus** in the world.

District 5330

Promoting Reading in Children



The Altadena Rotary Club used local DDF funds to help promote reading to a low-income pre-school program in their community. Working with the Pasadena After Hours Club, Rotary members held reading sessions for 3 and 4 year old children.



Since there was still Covid restrictions, they were only allowed to read to two students at a time. In addition to spending time reading, members had the opportunity to hand out goodie bags for the children to take home. The bags included books, art materials and other educational items.

District 5330 Gala

January 29, 2022

6:30 – 9:30 pm

Westin Mission Hills Resort

Dinner, Program and Live Auction

\$150 per person



It Took One Meal

Hector's mother was a stay-at-home mom. She took care of the family and volunteered at the school where her children were attending.

Shortly before Thanksgiving more than a decade ago her world turned upside down. Her husband abandoned the family.

She was left with the children. She had no job, didn't speak English well and had no idea how to navigate the system to get help for herself and her children. She had no one to turn to.

She kept her obligation of helping at the school, but she was very distraught and another mother who was also a volunteer asked her what the matter was. She broke down and told her about her situation and with Thanksgiving just a few days away she did not even have food to give to her children.

On the day of Thanksgiving when families all over the US were enjoying an abundance of food, Hector's family had very little to eat. His mother tried her best to keep them entertained. She told them stories and played games with them and, but their hunger played the dominant role. The kids pretended that they were

having a good time, but the reality was they were very hungry.



Around mid-day there was a knock on their door. As Hector's mom opened the door she was totally surprised to see a group of well-dressed strangers, carrying trays of cooked food. They asked if they could come in and celebrate Thanksgiving with the family. There were lots of food, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, pies and the biggest chicken Hector had ever seen. Later he would laughingly recall that it was his first time seeing a turkey.

The strangers stayed and shared the meal with them and there was an abundance of leftover food and other supplies that lasted them for a while.

The mystery of how these people knew about them was revealed when Hector's mom returned to volunteer at the school. The lady whom she had shared her problems with was the wife of a Rotarian and she told her husband about the situation. He in turn rallied his club members and they put together the meal.

For Hector and his family this encounter went beyond the meal. Here was a group of people whom they didn't know, who wanted nothing in return, who sat down with them and shared a meal on a day that is traditionally set aside to spend with one's family and friends.

They mattered, people cared, they were not alone.

If strangers cared for him and his family then he too would care for strangers and that thought changed his perspective on life. Hector had a burning desire to give back, to pay it forward. He didn't know how he would be able to achieve this especially with not having any resources but he felt he would find a way.

His school had a Club Fair Day, and each club was competing for the attention and membership of the students, as he looked around, his heart stopped as his eyes were drawn to a symbol on one of the posters. It was the same round symbol that the strangers had on their shirts. He didn't remember the name of their organization, but the Rotary wheel stuck in his head. The club was the Rotary Interact Club.

A wave of emotion came over him as he knew instinctively that this was the path that would help him to fulfill his desire to give back. He joined the Interact Club and Rotary soon became part of his DNA.

When he aged out of the Interact Club he joined the San Luis Obispo Rotaract Club and became its president. He would then start the Mount Sinai Rotaract After School Club.

In the darkest moment of his life, a group of strangers came and brought food and shared a meal. It may not seem much on the surface but to Hector nothing since can compare because it was that day he knew that he mattered.

Rotary is embedded in the heart of Hector, and he never passes up an opportunity to serve others. To him giving back is a gift. It is a gift for the recipient but more, so it is a gift to Hector.

*Always give without remembering and always
receive without forgetting*

Brian Tracy

A Look at Our Three Rotary Districts

Rotary District 5240



Arroyo Grande
Atascadero
Bakersfield
Bakersfield
Breakfast
Bakersfield East
Bakersfield North
Bakersfield
Twilight



District Governor
Dana Moldovan

Bakersfield West
Buelton
Camarillo Rotary
Camarillo Sunrise
Cambria
Carpinteria
Carpinteria
Morning
Carpinteria
Sunset
Cayucos
China Lake
Conejo Valley
Delano
E-Club of One
World
Fillmore
Goleta
Goleta Noontime
Grover Beach
Indian Wells
Valley
Kern River Valley
Lompoc
Los Olivos Rotary
Los Osos
Montecito
Moorpark
Moorpark
Morning
Morro Bay
NexGen
Nipomo
Ojai
Ojai West
Oxnard
Paso Robles
Rotary
Paso Robles
Sunrise
Passport Club of
the Central Coast
Pismo Beach-Five
Cities

Rotaract Santa Barbara
Rotaract Santa Maria Valley
Rotaract Cal
Rotaract UCSB
Rotaract Ventura
San Luis Obispo
San Luis Obispo de Tolosa
Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara
North
Santa Barbara
Sunrise
Santa Maria - Noon
Santa Maria - Breakfast
Santa Maria
South
Santa Paula
Santa Ynez Valley
Shafter
Simi Sunrise
Simi Sunset
Simi Valley
SLO Daybreak
Solvang
Taft
Tehachapi
Templeton
Thousand Oaks
Vandenberg
Village
Ventura
Ventura East
Ventura South
Wasco
Westlake Sunrise
Westlake Village

Foundation Chair:
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Rotary



District 5300

Alhambra
Altadena
Antelope Valley
Apple Valley
Arcadia
Azusa
Barstow
Boulder City
Boulder City



District Governor
Elizabeth Barry

Sunrise
Chino Valley
Claremont
Covina
Covina Sunrise
Downtown Las Vegas
Duarte
East Los Angeles
Five Points/El Monte/South El Monte
Glendora
Greater Chino
Hills
GSGV
Green Valley
Henderson
Industry Hills
La Verne
Lancaster
Lancaster
Sunrise
Lancaster West
Las Vegas
Las Vegas After Hours
Las Vegas Red Rock
Las Vegas
Southwest
Las Vegas Spring Mountains
Las Vegas
Summerlin
Las Vegas West
Las Vegas WON

North Las Vegas
Ontario - Montclair
Pahrump Valley
Pasadena
Pasadena After Hours
Pico Rivera
Pomona
Rancho Cucamonga
Rancho Del Chino
San Dimas
San Gabriel
San Gabriel
Valley NG
San Marino
South Pasadena
The High Desert - Hesperia
Upland
Victorville
Walnut Valley
West Covina

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Rotary District 5330



Arlington
(Riverside)
Beaumont-Cherry Valley
Big Bear Lake
Cathedral City
Cathedral City
Evening
Coachella East



District Governor
Dan Goodrich

Coachella Valley
Colton
Corona
Corona-Circle City
Crestline-Lake Gregory
Desert Hot Springs
E-Club of San Bernardino
E-Club of World
Peace, D5330
Fontana
Greater Eastvale
Hemet
Highland
Idyllwild
Indian Wells
Indio
Indio Sunrise
Joshua Tree
Jurupa Valley
La Quinta
Lake Arrowhead
Lake Arrowhead
Mountain Sunrise
Lake Elsinore
Menifee
Moreno Valley
Moreno Valley
Morning
Murrieta
Norco
Old Town
Temecula

Perris
Rancho Mirage
Redlands
Redlands Sunrise
Palm Desert
Palm Desert
Sunset Club
Palm Desert-Palms
Palm Springs
Palm Springs
Sunup
Rialto
Riverside
Riverside East
Riverside Sunrise
San Bernardino
San Bernardino
Crossroads
San Bernardino
North
San Bernardino
Sunset
San Geronio Pass (Banning)
San Jacinto
Sin Fronteras
Temecula
Temecula Sunrise
Temecula Valley - New Generation
Twentynine Palms
Wildomar
Yucaipa
Yucca Valley
Yucca Valley
Sunset

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Rotary is 1.2 million members in over 35,000 clubs all over the world. Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.