



Dennis Drager
District 6000
Governor 2023-2024



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Dear Rotarians of District 6000,

I am honored to serve as District 6000 Governor during the 2023-2024 Rotary year. I am excited about the year to come, especially the opportunity to see the great things happening within our district. I began my Rotary journey when I joined the Rotary club of Marshalltown in the year 2000. I joined for the networking opportunities. A few years later I was invited to go to Xicotepec on a mission trip with a team from our district and my eyes were opened to the amazing work of Rotary that happens outside of the club. Since that first trip I have returned to Mexico. I have gone to a project fair in Africa, where we assisted in administering Polio vaccinations in small African villages and learned about many opportunities to support projects throughout Africa. I helped facilitate a matching grant water project in South Sudan and have participated in many community projects. I grew into a Service driven Rotarian through my experiences within my club, my community and across the globe.

My goals for District 6000 clubs during the next year center around Service. I feel that the best way to CREATE HOPE in the WORLD is by serving our neighbors here and everywhere. I have asked each club to participate in projects within each of Rotary's Seven Areas of Focus. I believe that we can create a more peaceful world by helping break down the barriers that too many people face. Barriers to adequate food supply, shelter, clean water, education and basic healthcare. Access to these are basic human rights. Rotarians have the ability to help, and I believe it is our human obligation to provide assistance to the best of our ability. Through service, you and your club bring HOPE in many ways. You might serve at a homeless shelter, collect food for a pantry or fund a global grant. It may be as simple as a smile to someone having a difficult day.

I recently heard a story about a traveler in San Francisco, where there is a significant homeless population. While visiting the Bay Area, the traveler noticed a homeless man and offered him a few dollars. He also asked him, "how are you?" To the traveler's surprise, the homeless person began to sob. He shared that he had been homeless for just 3 weeks. In that short time, he began to believe he was invisible because no one looked at him or talked to him. Three simple words gave that man HOPE. There are countless ways that you create HOPE, even what may seem trivial may be life changing to another person. Consider what impact these three little words had on the homeless person. "How are you?" I challenge you to truly see people and ask them...How are you doing? If you notice someone struggling, please, do not accept the standard answers of FINE or GREAT. Please ask them "How are you really doing?" Rotary International President R. Gordon R. McInally has asked us to focus on mental health. I am happy to announce that our district has answered that request by creating a District Chapter of the Rotary Action Group on Mental Health Initiatives. This group will create a network of passionate people within our district to help break the stigma associated with mental health and move the conversation to mental wellness.

Another goal for the year is for every club to increase contributions to The Rotary Foundation Annual Fund and PolioPlus. This can be accomplished by increasing the number of EREY District 6000 Rotarians (Every Rotarian Every Year), who contribute at least \$100 each year to The Rotary Foundation (TRF). Contributions to TRF allow us to do great work within our communities and across the globe that we are all so proud of. I HOPE I can count on you to give what you are able.

Finally, I want to say thank you. Thank you for all of the HOPE you create within your club, your community and throughout the world. Imagine the great things you and your club will do this coming year as you CREATE HOPE in the WORLD, and remember, have FUN!

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