

Dear Fellow Rotarians, Rotaractors and friends of District 6000

Welcome all members as we begin the new Rotary Year 2021-22. We have entered the doors of new opportunities, overcome the challenges posed by the pandemic and have a true appreciation of life seen through its new lens. As we reflect and resurface out of the pandemic, we see firsthand that the clock does not stop, the wheel continues to turn, the road does not slowdown in Rotary! The many 1.2 million resilient Rotarians and Rotaractors followed the motto of 'Service Above Self' and were there to 'Serve to Change Lives' at the need of the hour! We have been impacted by the terrible loss of lives of many dear and loved ones during the pandemic. We are grateful and thankful to all the front liners, first responders and all involved for 'Serving to save and change lives' each day, every day! These are all the shining examples and role models of Rotary's motto of 'Service Above Self! Let us all lead by example! 'Serve to Change Lives' is our theme for the new Rotary year by RI President Shekhar Mehta. It is simple but has a deep meaning and has a lasting impact as the words are put into action. RI President's vision for the current Rotary year is to increase Rotary's membership to 1.3 million. He believes that we can accomplish this goal if each of us takes the responsibility of bringing one new member into the club and retain the ones already present. We will have a bigger platform, greater pool of Rotarian volunteers that represent the communities they live in. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion as its key focus.

Being an optimist and of a very positive mindset let's all take up this challenge - 'Dream Big', believe in our dreams and ourselves! Let's 'DO MORE AND GROW MORE'. Increase membership, do more service projects, participate in Rotary Days of Service, partner with other organizations, clubs, districts, locally and globally. Let's invite at least twenty five percent of non-Rotarians and Rotaractors to participate in service projects, learn about Rotary, social events and join in Rotary fellowship. It is critical to keep our focus on one or two initiatives by implementing our strategic plan, alongside with the Action plans that can come to fruition.

With the new 'normal' we are now more prepared for achieving greater things! Let us continue to open our minds and our hearts. As past RI President Holger Knaack said, "Everything we do in Rotary opens another opportunity for someone somewhere". "The world needs Rotary now more than ever." "Let's Light up Rotary!" "Be a Gift to the World!" We need to continue to double our efforts in eradicating Polio from our planet. We are this close! We have to finish the job! LET'S END POLIO NOW! Only two countries remain as we reach the FINISH LINE! Similarly, the infrastructure that we have for Polio has helped tremendously in providing the base for helping with the Covid 19 Vaccination too!

Let's embrace new fresh ideas, include and partner with our young people in many of the activities of Rotary. They are all excited with many of the new changes that Rotary has brought forth to them. They like to dive in and do hands-on service projects. Rotarians and Rotaractors are now seen as equals. Let's have their representation on different 'Action Teams'; have them participate in our projects and we in theirs. We also need to increase the number of women in Rotary, give them a means to amplify their voices, our clubs even stronger and soar to new heights of success! We are living in a digital era and experiencing a new world of Rotary. We have learned to accommodate, adapt, be creative, flexible and invite speakers, guests from across the globe through various virtual platforms. Hybrid and virtual meetings are here to stay and are a part of the new norm. We have been able to sit in the comfort of our homes and travel the world which otherwise would not have been possible! The mantra - 'The Rent we pay by living on planet Earth is the service we offer to mankind' really resonates with many! Let's start 'Peace builder clubs', use our creativity and be innovative by starting new clubs (Satellite, Cause based, Passport Clubs, the choices are manifold).

Let us donate generously to the Rotary Foundation, as the money that comes back to our District can be used to serve our local and global communities and 'Serve to Change Lives'. Half our world is hungry, half our world has no proper health facilities and so many people are suffering. Let's serve with an open mind, our hearts, spread kindness and compassion, share knowledge and exchange ideas. We must continue the great work of 'Serving to Change Lives' with projects District 6000 clubs are doing in the 'Seven Areas of Focus'. The newest area of focus is 'The Environment'. Let's protect our planet as every future counts! My Acronym W-E H-E-L-P 'SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES' stands for W-Water, E-Education, H-Health and wellness, E-Environment, L-Literacy, P-Peace and Conflict Resolution. One of my major initiatives for this year is a global issue. It is a widespread concern in Iowa. Let us create the awareness, prevent 'Human Trafficking' and protect children and our youth as they are our future. They need to be able to have the chance to lead a normal life. Let's join, be a part of an ICC (Inter Country Committees), participate in new fellowships like Rotary means Business, join Rotary Action Groups - the latest one is Menstrual Hygiene Management, partner with ShelterBox that reaches the remotest areas to help 'Serve to Change lives.' Let's include PDG Steve Dakin's idea of the Fifth Way Test! LET'S MAKE IT FUN! Thank you all for the great honor to serve as your DG for District 6000. I will do my very best and together we will take action to serve our local, global communities and ourselves, make a difference and make our world a better place for all! I am proud to be a Rotarian! I hope you will all join us for our first Rotary multi district conference taking place after seventy-five years in Iowa. District 5970 and District 6000 will come together on April 22nd and 23rd 2022 in Iowa City! We have an exciting conference planned just for you!

Thank You,
DG : Alka Khanolkar

PROMOTE: Interact, Rotaract, RYLA, Youth Exchange
OUR YOUTH are OUR FUTURE!

Every Future Counts