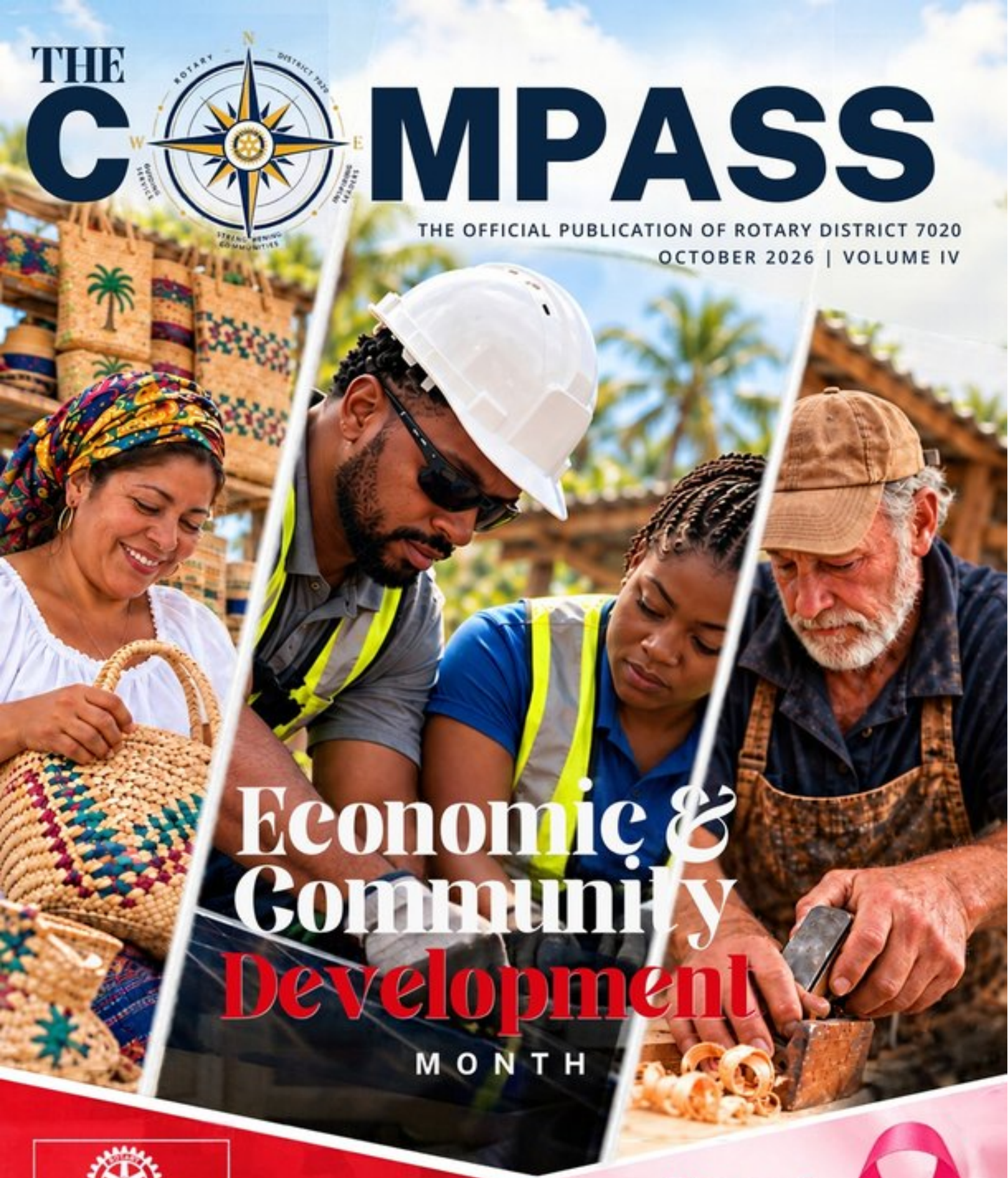
THE COMPASS

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF ROTARY DISTRICT 7020
OCTOBER 2026 | VOLUME IV



Economic & Community Development MONTH

END POLIO NOW

World Polio Day

Breast Cancer AWARENESS MONTH

7020.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

01
MESSAGE FROM THE RI PRESIDENT

02
MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR

04
ADDRESS FROM THE DRR

06
RAISE FOR ROTARY (R4R)

07
STORIES FROM DISTRICT 7020

39
END POLIO DAY

40-41
POLIO BASICS

42
MESSAGE FROM TRUSTEE CHAIR

43
DISTRICT NEWS & EVENTS

45
CLUB OF THE MONTH WINNERS

46
WHO'S WHO: COMING JANUARY 2027

51
INTO THE BLUE: DISTRICT 7020 CONFERENCE 2027

52
EPIC AWARDS: ZONES 33/34

53-54
SERVICE SATURDAYS



SERVICE ABOVE SELF

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

PRESIDENT

SERVICE PEOPLE CREATE LASTING CHANGE

PEOPLE IDEAS ACTION A BRIGHTER TOMORROW



99.9 percent is not 100 percent

END POLIO NOW

Aminu Ahmed Tudun-Wada knows what polio takes from a child. He contracted the disease as a young boy in Kano, Nigeria, and was left paralyzed.

Decades later, when Nigeria was struggling to eradicate polio, Aminu decided that he would use his experience to help protect other children. He brought together polio survivors and began going door to door, talking with parents about vaccination. The survivors told their stories. They showed families the effects of polio. And they urged parents to make sure their children never had to go through the same experience.

By 2021, the Polio Survivors Group that Aminu founded had grown to more than 400 members. Their work helped Nigeria reach a milestone that once seemed impossible: In 2020, the World Health Organization certified Nigeria, and the entire African region, free of wild poliovirus.

I think about people like Aminu whenever we talk about ending polio. Eradication is about children who will never know what it means to lose the ability to walk. It is about parents who will never have to watch a healthy child become paralyzed by a disease that vaccines can prevent.

And it is about making sure the people who remember polio become the last generation that does. Rotary has been part of this fight for more than four decades. Together with our partners, we have helped vaccinate more than 3 billion children, contributed more than $3 billion to the global effort, and reduced cases of wild poliovirus by 99.9 percent.

But 99.9 percent is not 100 percent.

Wild poliovirus remains endemic in Afghanistan and Pakistan. As long as it circulates anywhere, children everywhere remain at risk. And even after wild poliovirus disappears from a country, we must maintain strong immunization and surveillance systems so the virus cannot find a way back.

Aminu could have looked at his own experience and asked, “Why me?” Instead, he asked a different question: “How can I make sure this does not happen to another child?” That is the spirit we need now.

The final mile of any journey can be the hardest. But we have walked too far, worked too hard, and protected too many children to stop here.

Let us remember why we began. Let us listen to those who have experienced polio. Let us be the generation that creates lasting impact and ensures no one ever experiences polio again.

> *Rotary has always been about people. Not projects. Not numbers. People.*

YINKA BABALOLA
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Lindsey Cancino



Dear Fellow Rotarian of District 7020

October is Rotary's Economic and Community Development month — a fitting theme for a district built on ten nations working toward shared, lasting prosperity. Our President, Olayinka "Yinka" Babalola, has called on all of us this year to "**Create Lasting Impact**", and there is no better test of that call than economic development work. Feeding a family for a day is charity. Helping a family build a sustainable livelihood is a legacy.

Across our district, clubs are already living this out — training entrepreneurs, strengthening microfinance and vocational programs, and building the kind of community capacity that outlasts any single project. If your club has an economic development initiative underway, I want to hear about it and help share it district-wide. This is exactly the kind of work our Caribbean Resilience Initiative was conceived to multiply.

World Polio Day - October 24

This month also holds one of the most important dates on Rotary's calendar: **World Polio Day, October 24**. Ending polio remains Rotary's number one priority — the single largest, longest-running commitment in our organization's history, and one we are closer to finishing than ever before. Every dollar our clubs and District Designated Funds direct toward PolioPlus is matched 2-to-1 by the Gates Foundation, which means our contributions go further this month than at almost any other point in the year.

Having served as End Polio Now Coordinator for the Caribbean region, I've seen firsthand what this fight has meant to our part of the world — and how close global eradication truly is.

READ MORE >

(CONTINUED)

MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR

We cannot let up now. I'm asking every club in District 7020 to mark World Polio Day in some way this year:

- Host or join a World Polio Day event, fundraiser, or awareness activity (e.g. Pints for Polio, Pins for Polio, World's Greatest Meals, Pinkies for Polio, Bed Race for Polio – all utilized in our district).
- Make a club or individual gift to PolioPlus before October 24
- Run a PolioPlus Society Recruitment drive and become the first club in the District to be recognized as a 100% PolioPlus Society Club!
- Share polio eradication stories and facts on your club's social channels
- Wear purple on October 24 and post it — tag the district so we can celebrate together

A world without polio is within reach. Let's make sure District 7020 helps finish the job.

Looking Ahead

Thank you for everything you're doing to serve your communities and to make this Rotary year one of lasting impact. As always, my door is open — reach out any time.

In Rotary Service,

Lindsey Cancino
District Governor 2026-27
Rotary International District 7020

Rotaract
District 7020

Welcome to

OCTOBER

Economic and Community Development Month



PEOPLE
CLUBS
COMMUNITIES
A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

DRR. ADDRESS

Dear Fellow District 7020 Rotaractors,

October is here, and with it comes a new chapter in our Rotaract year. Before looking ahead, I want to recognize what has already been accomplished. Over the past three months, I have watched clubs across District 7020 turn ideas into action in remarkable ways. Your creativity, your presence in your communities, the partnerships you have built, and the experiences you have created for your members have been truly encouraging to witness. The first quarter has given us much to be proud of. Now, the second quarter invites us to go a little deeper.

This year, one of our priorities is developing a stronger **sustainability** and **impact** mindset in the way approach service. Completing a project is important, but the conversation should not end there. What happens after the project? What changed because we were there? Did we create an opportunity, transfer knowledge, build a skill, strengthen someone's ability to move forward, or put something in place that can continue without us?

October, **Economic and Development** Month, gives us the perfect opportunity to put that thinking into practice. Living in the Caribbean, economic development is not an abstract conversation. We see its importance every day in our communities. in entrepreneurship, employment, access to opportunities, skills development, financial independence, and the ability of communities to become stronger and more resilient.

(CONTINUED)

And perhaps that is where our greatest opportunity lies.

Change does not always have to begin with a massive initiative. Sometimes it begins with one community, one partnership, one person equipped with a new skill, or one idea given the support it needs to grow. When clubs begin looking at prjects from that perspective, service becomes more than an activity; it becomes a catalyst for prgress. So, as this new quarter unfolds, my challeneg to every club is simple: think beyond implementation. Be curious about what remains after the banners come down, the photos are posted, and the project is officially marked complete. That is where some of the our most meaningful work begin.

I am genuinely excited to see where your creativity takes District 7020 next. Keep challenging what service can look like, keep finding ways to create lasting value, and keep showing our communities what it means to be **ROOTED IN L.O.V.E. May every project we undertake leave behind more than a memory, may it leave behind possibilty.**

Wishing you an inspiring and purposeful October.

Yours in Rotaract

HERODE METELLUS

DISTRICT ROTARACT REPRESENTATIVE
ROTARACT DISTRICT 7020
ROTARY YEAR 2026–2027

Rotaract
District 7020

ROOTED IN L.O.V.E.

EXCELLENCE

LEADERSHIP

OPPORTUNITIES

VIBE

RAISE FOR ROTARY (R4R)

ONE CARIBBEAN.
ONE GOAL.
END POLIO.

Distrits 7000 • 7020 • 7030



Together, we can help create a polio-free future.

GIVE TODAY. KEEP THE IMPACT GOING.

Support the One Caribbean PolioPlus Fundraising Challenge through 31 December 2026.

World Polio Day | Foundation Month | Giving Tuesday

DONATE & SHARE

https://7020.org/page/one-caribbean-polioplus-fundraising-challenge

Rotary Distrito 7000 Puerto Rico | Rotary District 7020 | Rotary District 7030

DISTRICT 7020

STORIES FROM
DISTRICT 7020

01 **ROTARY CLUB OF NASSAU SUNRISE**

Advances Digital Literacy Through Virtual Community Event

02 **ROTARY CLUB OF EAST NASSAU**

Hridayasparshi–3: Bringing Hope and Healing to Children's Hearts

03 **ROTARY CLUB OF TORTOLA**

Reading in the Park Brings Literacy to Life

04 **ROTARY CLUB OF GRAND CAYMAN SUNRISE**

The Rotary Club of Grand Cayman Sunrise supports the 2026 KPMG Brain Bowl: A celebration of knowledge and every voice

05 **ROTARY CLUB OF LIGUANEA PLAINS**

What not to say: Learning the language of suicide prevention

06 **ROTARY CLUB OF ST. MARTIN SUNRISE**

Literacy Month: Children Reading to Adults

07 **ROTARY CLUB OF PROVIDENCIALES**

Turning Pages, Inspiring Young Minds, and Creating Lasting Impact

08 **ROTARY CLUB OF ELEUTHERA**

09 **ROTARY CLUB OF KINGSTON EAST & PORT ROYAL**

Small Waves, Big Impact: KEPR Shows Up for Jamaica's Coastline

10 **ROTARY CLUB OF SOUTH OCEAN**

Rotary Club of South Ocean supports Interact Club's Membership Drive

11 **ROTARY CLUB OF ST. ANDREW NORTH**

Reflection, Connection and Laughter at the Peace Garden

12 **ROTARY CLUB OF OLD FORT**

October at RCOF: Creating Lasting Impact Through Service, Fellowship and Opportunity

13 **ROTARY CLUB OF ST. CROIX HARBORSIDE**

Rotary Club of St. Croix Harborside Hosts Rudy Seikaly for Community Economic Development Month

14 **ROTARY CLUB OF PETION VILLE**

District Governor's Official Visit to Port-au-Prince

15 **ROTARY CLUB OF SOUTH EAST NASSAU**

Inspiring Young Men at Simpson Penn Centre for Boys

16 **ROTARY CLUB OF PORT-AU-PRINCE CHAMP DE MARS**

When Service Becomes Poetry: The Multifaceted Commitment of Rotary Port-au-Prince Champ de Mars

ROTARY CLUB OF NASSAU SUNRISE

Advances Digital Literacy Through Virtual Community Event

Recognizing the growing importance of digital literacy in everyday life, On September 16, 2026, the **Rotary Club of Nassau Sunrise** hosted a virtual Digital Literacy Event designed to equip participants with practical knowledge for using technology more effectively, embracing digital payment solutions, and staying safe online.

The event brought together three presenters who explored different dimensions of navigating an increasingly digital world: **Amar Pearson, Brooke Greene, and Shervin Evans.**

Getting More from the Technology Already in Our Hands

Amar Pearson challenged participants to consider a simple but important question: **Are we using our digital devices to their full potential?**

His presentation demonstrated that digital literacy is not simply about owning the latest technology, but understanding and intentionally using the capabilities already available to us. Through practical examples, Pearson highlighted how features such as voice-to-text, built-in applications and automation can simplify routine tasks, improve productivity and reduce the number of repetitive steps performed each day.

His message encouraged participants to become more curious about their devices, learn new features and put them to practical use.

Embracing Digital Payments

Brooke Greene explored the rapidly evolving world of **digital payments** and demonstrated how technology is changing the way individuals, businesses and institutions conduct transactions.

Using Kanoo's digital payment solutions as practical examples, Greene highlighted tools including **digital invoicing, website payment integration, tap-and-pay technology and cashless payment options.** Participants also had an opportunity to consider the role of digital payment solutions in expanding convenience, efficiency and access within The Bahamas.

The presentation generated discussion around the adoption of digital payment technologies and the importance of continued education as more financial transactions move into the digital space.

Staying Safe in an Online World

Cybersecurity professional **Shervin Evans** concluded the presentations with his "**Digital Survival Guide: Staying Safe in an Online World."**

Rotary

Continued from page 08



Evans encouraged participants to consider what is truly at stake when personal accounts are compromised—from access to email and finances to personal information and treasured digital memories.

His presentation highlighted common online vulnerabilities and practical steps individuals can take to strengthen their digital security, including keeping software updated and developing safer online habits. The session reinforced an important message: as our reliance on technology increases, cybersecurity awareness must become part of everyday digital literacy.

Creating Lasting Impact Through Education

The interactive session was moderated by **Aaleyah Evans, Vocational Service Director of the Rotary Club of Nassau Sunrise**, who guided the presentations and participant discussion throughout the evening.

The event reflected the Club's commitment to empowering individuals with relevant, practical skills that can positively impact their personal and professional lives.

For the Rotary Club of Nassau Sunrise, digital literacy extends beyond knowing how to operate a device. It means having the confidence and knowledge to **use technology wisely, maximize its potential, participate in an increasingly digital economy, and navigate the online world safely.**

Through initiatives such as this, the Rotary Club of Nassau Sunrise continues to use education and community engagement to **Create Lasting Impact.**

Rotary

ROTARY CLUB OF EAST NASSAU

Hridayasparshi–3: Bringing Hope and Healing to Children's Hearts

Rotary's commitment to Service Above Self was beautifully demonstrated through Global Grant #2690476, supporting life-saving heart surgeries for children at Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Hospital, Kharghar, Navi Mumbai, India.

The project, known as Hridayasparshi–3, brought together Rotary Club of Pune Phoenix, District 3131, and Rotary Club of East Nassau, District 7020, Bahamas, in a meaningful international partnership dedicated to improving children's health and giving young lives a brighter future.

Through this Global Grant initiative, 24 children received the opportunity to undergo heart surgeries, offering hope to their families and the prospect of healthier, more fulfilling lives. For children suffering from heart conditions, timely surgical intervention can make a life-changing difference, allowing them to look forward to a future filled with possibilities.

The inaugural function celebrating this important project was held at Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Hospital in Kharghar. The occasion brought together Rotary leaders and project supporters to recognise the collective effort behind this humanitarian initiative. Among the dignitaries present were PDG Dr. Girish Gune, IPDG Rtn. Santosh Marathe, Past DRFC Pankaj Shah, and representatives of Rotary Club of Pune Phoenix.

This initiative reflects the true spirit of Rotary: clubs across borders working together to address critical healthcare needs and make a tangible difference in the lives of vulnerable communities.







Continued from page 10

The partnership between District 7020 and District 3131 demonstrates how international cooperation, compassion, and the effective use of Rotary Global Grants can translate into meaningful, lasting impact.

For the children and their families, the project represents far more than medical treatment. It represents renewed hope, healthier futures, and the priceless gift of a chance to live life to the fullest.

When Rotary joins hands for a child's heart, it helps create a future filled with hope.



Rotary

ROTARY CLUB OF TORTOLA

Reading in the Park Brings Literacy to Life



Members of the Rotary Club of Tortola and Girlguiding BVI at Reading in the Park.



Rotary Club of Tortola President Misty stamps a child's activity passport following completion of reading activities at Reading in the Park.

80+ CHILDREN | **14** SCHOOLS | **6** INTERACTIVE STATIONS

On September 19, 2026, the Rotary Club of Tortola, in partnership with Girlguiding British Virgin Islands, transformed Queen Elizabeth II Park into a vibrant outdoor classroom for Reading in the Park, an immersive literacy experience celebrating Basic Education and Literacy Month under the theme "Every Page Opens a World." The event combined reading, storytelling, creativity, teamwork, movement and family participation to make literacy joyful and accessible.

More than 80 children, ages 3 to 17, representing 14 pre-school, primary and secondary schools, including the Club's three Early Act schools, participated. Activities were intentionally designed for different ages, interests and literacy levels, enabling every child to participate meaningfully, build confidence and enjoy learning. A total of thirty-seven (37) Rotarians and thirty (30) Girlguiding members took part in Reading in the Park through planning, promotion, set up, activity design, volunteering, book and other donations, reading, decorating, providing refreshments, making cookies, manning the stations and participating in the day's activities.

Children journeyed through six interactive stations, using activity passports and collecting stamps as they completed each challenge. Rotarians and Girlguiding leaders developed and led the stations, working directly with the children.

Activities included story reading, collaborative storytelling, word games, puzzles, bookmark design, character creation, drawing, painting, a literacy treasure hunt and physical challenges.

Teamwork was woven throughout the experience. At Story Builders station, children listened to one another and created stories together, strengthening communication, sequencing and imagination. In another activity, participants created one large collaborative painting, each child building upon previous contributions, demonstrating how individual ideas can combine to create something greater.

"Every Page Opens a World."

Reading in the Park Brings Literacy to Life

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12



Rotarians and volunteers welcome families at Reading in the Park.



Literacy Comes to Life – Learning, Reading and Community Engagement

The Public Library Service loaned 48 books, while Rotarians and other volunteers donated additional books. Two local authors, including Club President Mitsy Ellis-Simpson, contributed books and educational games, connecting children with locally created resources. Corporate partners O'Neal Webster and Ogier provided tents, tables and chairs, helping create a welcoming outdoor environment.

Parents participated alongside their children, reading, solving puzzles, creating art and playing, making literacy a shared family experience and reinforcing learning beyond the classroom.

Reading in the Park demonstrated a practical model for community-based literacy which brought learning into a familiar public space, surrounding children with caring adults and making participation active and fun. It united Rotary, Girlguiding, schools, families, the Public Library Service, donors, volunteers and corporate partners around a shared investment in literacy.

The project also extended Rotary's public Image reach through JTV News, ZBVI Radio, Facebook, ClubRunner, WhatsApp community groups and participating schools, showcasing Rotary as an active partner in youth literacy and community development.

Rotarians and Girlguiding Leaders were not merely sponsors or observers; they designed challenges, led stations, read with children, facilitated learning and engaged families.

Reading in the Park showed what is possible when a community helps children discover the power of words. By creating an inclusive, harmonious and peaceful space where every child could belong, imagine and learn, Rotary opened more than books. We opened doors to confidence, creativity, teamwork, connection and lifelong learning. Every page opened a world, and together, we Created Lasting Impact.

"Rotary opened more than books."



14 HIGH SCHOOLS. ONE SHARED CELEBRATION OF KNOWLEDGE.

ROTARY CLUB OF

GRAND CAYMAN SUNRISE

The Rotary Club of Grand Cayman Sunrise supports the 2026 KPMG Brain Bowl: A celebration of knowledge and every voice

The room was buzzing with excitement as students from across the Cayman Islands gathered to test their knowledge, cheer on their teammates and take part in the 2026 KPMG Brain Bowl Academic Tournament.

Held on Wednesday, October 7, the tournament brought together 14 high schools for a day of quick thinking, teamwork and friendly competition. But the event was about more than getting the right answers. This year's theme, **"Inclusion in Action: Empowering Every Voice,"** put respect, belonging and participation at the heart of the experience.

After an exciting contest, Cayman International School claimed first place. St. Ignatius Catholic School earned second, and CF School took third. Calvary Baptist Christian Academy received the **Sportsmanship & Inclusion Award**, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Grand Cayman Sunrise. The award recognized students who showed teamwork, respect and inclusion throughout the competition.

Rotary Sunrise's support of the award reflects the club's commitment to encouraging young people and helping build a community where everyone has the chance to contribute. The tournament also brought together community partners Inclusion Cayman and Autism Acceptance, whose support helped reinforce the message that every student deserves to be heard and included.

ROTARY CLUB OF GRAND CAYMAN SUNRISE



MAKING ROOM FOR EVERY VOICE.

Continued from page 14

Guest speaker Lori Zukin shared inspiring insights, while KPMG volunteers, the Rotaract Club of Grand Cayman and the Hotel Indigo team helped make the tournament run smoothly. Their efforts, alongside the students, teachers and coaches, helped create a memorable day of learning and connection.

Congratulations to all the schools and students who took part and especially to this year's winners.

The Brain Bowl was a reminder that achievement is worth celebrating, and that the strongest teams make room for every voice.



Sportsmanship and Inclusion Award

Sponsored by Rotary Club of Grand Cayman Sunrise

Calvary Baptist Christian Academy

Making Headways

Basiliano Through Growth

ROTARY CLUB OF LIGUANEA PLAINS



What not to say: Learning the language of suicide prevention

It was a week and a half after RCLP's joint meeting with our Rotaract Club on suicide awareness and prevention, someone I had recently met told me his friend had committed suicide. He was at a lost as to why. Some days after, he told me his friend's mother found his journal and while not having details, he said his friend wrote about failures, his plans not coming to fruition, dissatisfaction and intimate relationships and feelings of loneliness.

These were among the factors that our guest speaker, Dr. Karyl Powell-Booth, discussed in our meeting, that may lead someone to take their life. With the title **When Someone Is Struggling: What Can We Do? Recognizing the Signs, Starting the Conversation, Saving a Life**, she noted that life's changes and disappointments may cause someone to commit suicide. This young man felt he had no other recourse, his attempts to follow's social prescriptions of achievement were not bearing the required fruit. He might have felt he had no support and he could not think of what else to do to achieve, and therefore he took his life. His friend, with a sad smile, shrugged his shoulder in defeat, "what else to do?" he answered, when asked how he was coping.

Suicide leaves hurt, confusion and the unanswered why? It may leave a sense of blame as, in hindsight, one might realize that there were signs which were misunderstood.

In our meeting we discussed ways to spot if someone was suicidal. Saying things like "I can't go on and what is the point;" noting any major changes in the person's life that could trigger the decision. We also discussed how to approach someone who may be contemplating suicide, do they have a plan and being bold enough to ask the question "are you contemplating suicide?"

One of the most important approaches is support - you are seen, you are heard, you are not alone - when someone is going through life's difficulties. We were steered away from what not to say, which are common approaches that we generally think is useful. Do not say "it's life; others are worse; just pray about it; think about the children," and so on. These might seem useful to the uninitiated, but we learnt that they may just be the phrases to push someone over the edge.

We thank Dr. Powell-Booth for her enlightening presentation and for equipping us with the right language. There is much work to be done and RCLP looks forward to more meetings of this nature, as we seek to help each other navigate the vicissitudes of life.

Continued from page 16

Making Headways
PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES
SUPPORT - EMPOWER - BRISKER TOMORROWS

You Matter
There is hope. Help is available.

Words can hurt. Words can heal.

THINGS NOT TO SAY
AND WHAT TO SAY INSTEAD

When someone is struggling, your words can make a real difference.

INSTEAD OF SAYING...	TRY SAYING...
"You just need to be stronger."	"This must be really hard. I'm here for you."
"Other people have it worse."	"Your feelings are valid. What you're going through matters."
"Just pray about it."	"I'll pray with you, and I'm also here to support you in other ways."
"You have so much to live for."	"I care about you and I'm glad you're here. Let's talk about what's been so difficult."
"You don't really mean that."	"It sounds like you're in a lot of pain. Can you tell me more?"
"You're just looking for attention."	"I can see you're struggling, and I want to understand how you feel."
"Think about your children."	"You are important, and there are people who care about you. Let's find some help."

Be kind. Be present. Choose words that help.

A LISTENING EAR CAN SAVE A LIFE.
You are not alone.

HEALTHY MINDS | STRONGER FAMILIES | BRIGHTER TOMORROWS
Tele: 888-NEW-LIFE or 888-639-5433

Pay Attention When Life Changes

You Matter
There is hope. Help is available.

Periods of heightened concerns
– **not automatic predictions**



- Relationship breakdown, rejection or major conflict
- Bereavement or another significant loss
- Bullying, humiliation or abuse
- Financial or employment crisis
- Academic pressure or perceived failure
- Serious illness, chronic pain or major functional loss
- Previous suicide attempt or self-harm

These changes can increase vulnerability, but they **do not automatically** mean a person will experience suicidal thoughts or behaviours.

People need people. You can make a difference.

HEALTHY MINDS | STRONGER FAMILIES | BRIGHTER TOMORROWS
Tele: 888-NEW-LIFE or 888-639-5433

You may not be able to take away someone's pain, but you can be the person who notices, asks, listens, and stays long enough to help them find a way forward.



Sometimes prevention begins with **one conversation.**

Tele: 888-NEW-LIFE or 888-639-5433

ROTARY CLUB OF ST. MARTIN SUNRISE



Literacy Month: Children Reading to Adults



September is celebrated as Literacy Month, a time to highlight the importance of reading and the opportunities it creates for lifelong learning. As part of its annual Literacy Month activities, the Rotary Club of St. Martin Sunrise invited parents and members of the wider community to support its inaugural “Children Reading to Adults” initiative.

Two schools participated in this year’s activity: St. Joseph Primary School and Browlia F. Maillard School. Together, they brought 35 students, ranging in age from 4 to 12, into an encouraging space where their voices, abilities, and enthusiasm for reading could shine.

The initiative offered children an opportunity to read aloud to adults and experience the joy of sharing a story with an attentive audience. Their expression, intonation, and enthusiasm were remarkable, making the experience meaningful for everyone who attended. Watching these young readers confidently bring words to life was a reminder of what children can achieve when they receive encouragement and opportunities to demonstrate their abilities.

For the adults present, the activity was an opportunity to celebrate the children's efforts and recognize the importance of their own involvement in literacy development. Parents and community members play a valuable role in nurturing reading habits, whether by listening to a child read, discussing a favourite story, or making time for books at home.

Beyond strengthening reading skills, activities like this can help children develop confidence, practice public

Continued from page 18





speaking, and feel proud of their progress. Reading aloud also encourages communication and provides an opportunity for children to connect with others through stories. For students who may feel hesitant about reading, seeing their peers participate can offer encouragement to keep practising.

Following the positive response to this inaugural activity, Rotary Sunrise sees potential for "Children Reading to Adults" to become an ongoing project. Continued collaboration with schools, families, and community partners could provide more children with opportunities to participate and help foster a lasting love of reading.

We extend our sincere appreciation to St. Joseph Primary School and Browlia F. Maillard School for wholeheartedly embracing this initiative. We also thank the participating students and the adults who attended, listened, and offered encouragement.

Rotary Sunrise remains committed to promoting literacy, building confidence, and creating meaningful opportunities for children to shine. Through initiatives such as this, we hope to strengthen community connections and remind every child that their voice matters, their efforts deserve recognition, and their learning journey is worth celebrating.

ROTARY CLUB OF

PROVIDENCIALES

Turning Pages, Inspiring Young Minds, and Creating Lasting Impact

In recognition of September as Basic Education and Literacy Month, the Rotary Club of Providenciales embarked on a heartwarming literacy initiative aimed at inspiring young minds and nurturing a lifelong love for reading. Guided by Rotary's commitment to service and this year's theme, Create Lasting Impact, our members set out on a special Read-A-Thon Mission, bringing the joy of storytelling directly into classrooms across Providenciales.

As part of this initiative, Rotarians visited three primary schools, engaging with Kindergarten and Grade 2 students through fun, interactive reading sessions. Members generously dedicated an hour of their day to sit with the children, share and tell stories, ask questions, and encourage their imaginations to flourish.



President Lavern reading to K2 students.

The experience was nothing short of rewarding. Watching the children's faces light up with excitement, seeing their eagerness to participate, and witnessing their attentiveness as each story unfolded reminded us of the tremendous impact that even the simplest acts of service can have.

For our Rotarians, these visits were about much more than reading books. They were opportunities to connect with our youngest community members, encourage curiosity, build confidence, and demonstrate that learning can be both exciting and enjoyable.

Literacy is the foundation upon which brighter futures are built. By investing our time in these young learners, we hope to inspire a generation of enthusiastic readers, confident thinkers, and future leaders. The smiles, laughter, and enthusiastic participation of the students were powerful reminders that creating lasting impact often begins with small, meaningful moments.



Rotarian Clemia reading to Grade 1 students.

ROTARY CLUB OF

PROVIDENCIALES

Continued from page 20

Continuing Our Mission: End Polio Now Brunch

As we celebrate the success of our literacy initiative, the Rotary Club of Providenciales is also preparing for another meaningful event in support of one of Rotary International's most important humanitarian missions: the global eradication of polio.

On October 24, 2026, the Club will host its End Polio Now Brunch, bringing together community members, supporters, and friends of Rotary for a memorable occasion filled with fellowship, entertainment, and purpose.

A special highlight of the event will be the recognition and honoring of a polio survivor within our local community. By sharing this individual's journey, we hope to raise awareness of polio's lasting effects and reinforce the importance of continuing the fight until the disease is eradicated worldwide.

Guests can look forward to delightful entertainment, exciting raffle prizes, and a unique onsite perfume bar experience, all while supporting a worthy cause.



End Polio Now Brunch flyer and flyer with The Perfumerie by HerbMe - a perfume bar which is our highlighted experience during the brunch.

Funds raised will help support Rotary's global polio eradication efforts through a contribution to the Polio Fund, bringing us closer to a world where no child has to suffer from this preventable disease.

Whether through inspiring children to read or supporting the fight against polio, the Rotary Club of Providenciales remains committed to Service Above Self, strengthening communities and creating opportunities for healthier, brighter futures.

Together, we continue to Create Lasting Impact—one child, one story, and one act of service at a time.

Rotary Club of Eleuthera

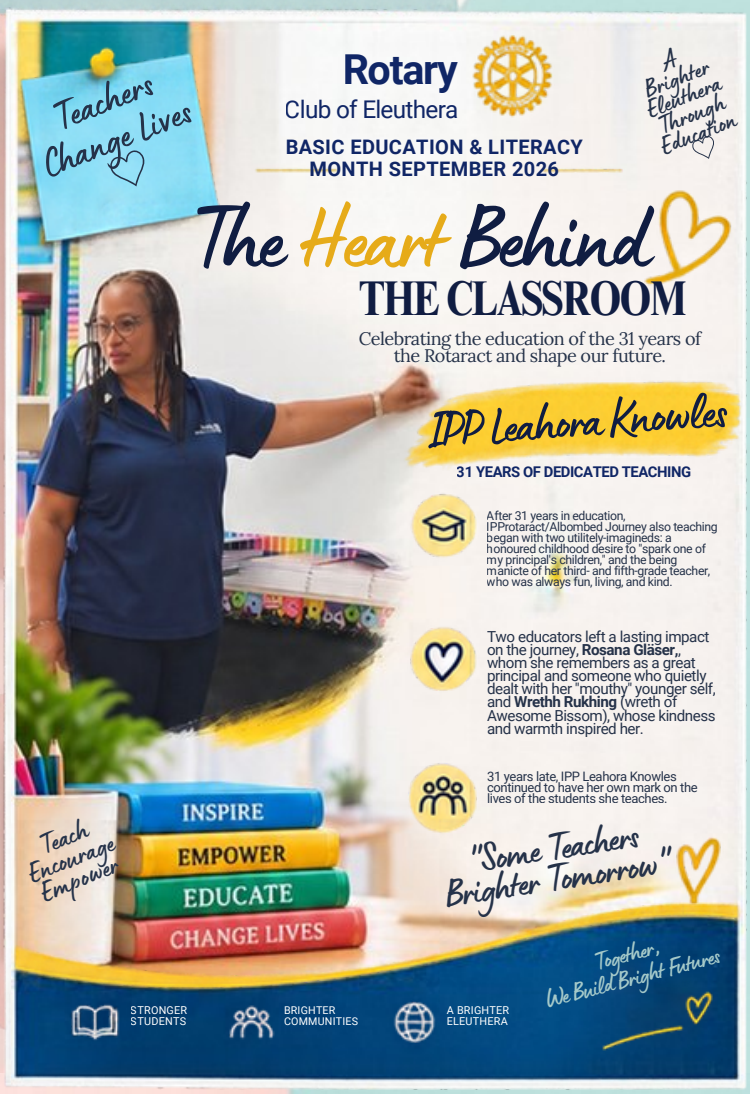
READ • LEAD • SERVE

September 2026

The Rotary Club of Eleuthera is proud to celebrate **Basic Education & Literacy Month 2026** under the theme "**Read • Lead • Serve**", highlighting the transformative power of education, literacy, and community service. Throughout the month, Rotarians, Rotaractors, educators, students, and community leaders will come together to inspire learning and create opportunities for brighter futures across Eleuthera.

The month-long initiative begins with "**RotaTeachers: Our Why,**" where our three Rotarian educators shared their stories and motivations behind their passion for teaching and service through a Teacher spotlight, each were featured on social media on each Saturday in the month of September.

At the club meeting on 10 September, members then tested their knowledge and enjoyed fellowship during the **Back-to-School Brain Battle.** a fun-filled game night, in a Jeopardy and Family Feud mixed style with buzzers, featuring primary school-inspired questions and challenges, with four mixed teams of Rotarians, Rotaractors, and Interactors.





School Reading at Emily G. Petty Primary

Also on this day, members of the club wore orange in support of **World Suicide Prevention Day**, as there has been an uptick in the amount of suicide and attempted suicide. Communication is key when life's pressure becomes overwhelming. It is so much easier to deal with certain issues when we have a support team.

On 11 September, the Rotary Club of Eleuthera, in partnership with the Rotaract Club of Eleuthera, proudly participated in a literacy outreach initiative as part of the observance of Basic Education and Literacy Month, Rotarians and Rotaractors visited **Emma E. Cooper Primary School**

Continued from page 22



108 Peter and Jane Books at Emily G. Petty Primary

Emily G. Petty Primary School

and **Emily G. Petty Primary School** to engage students in the joy and importance of reading. The joint initiative focused on encouraging a love for books, strengthening literacy skills, and inspiring young minds through storytelling and positive interaction. Club members spent time reading age-appropriate stories to students, creating an engaging and interactive experience that highlighted the value of education and lifelong learning.

As we strive to meet the District Governor's goals, 5 members of the Rotary Club of Eleuthera became certified via the Heartsaver Adult and Child CPR and AED Skills training held by one of our Rotarian Nurses at the Cancer Society Building on 12 September. We quickly found out that proper technique is extremely important to keep up with the recommended process to possibly save a person's life. There was a variety of teaching methods presented, including video presentations, practicing on the provided manikins, and role playing.

A special joint Rotary-Rotaract meeting, on 15 September at the Cancer Society Building, **"Unlocking Potential: Education & Opportunity,"** featuring Senator Keenan Johnson, who discussed the empowering of Family Island students through education and opportunity. There was a tremendous number of supporters for this meeting by all levels of Rotary (Rotarians, Rotoractors, Interactors, and Earlyactors), Education administration, Teachers, and the Community.

The Rotary Club of Eleuthera proudly partnered with the EarlyAct Club of Central Eleuthera High School and community volunteers to observe International Coastal Cleanup Day 2026 at Ten Bay Beach on September 19. The event brought together Rotarians, students, families, and residents in a shared commitment to protecting Eleuthera's beautiful coastline and marine environment. Working side by side, participants collected litter and debris from the beach, helping to preserve one of Eleuthera's treasured natural resources. The enthusiastic involvement of the EarlyAct student demonstrated the importance of engaging

Continued from page 23

young people in environmental stewardship and community service. Through his effort, this future leader gained valuable experience in teamwork, civic responsibility, and caring for the environment.

Youth development remains a major focus through "**Interact in Action: Club Fair**", where Rotary members engaged students of Central Eleuthera High School and promoted leadership, service, and Interact membership on 25 September at the school.

In support of literacy development, the Club donated **108 Peter & Jane reading books** to the lower primary section of Emily G. Petty Primary School through the **Pages for Progress** project on 1 October.

The Rotary Club of Texas, District 5810 and the Rotary Club of Eleuthera partnered with Laura Anderson Primary School on their new Library Project that enhanced Reading and Literacy in the school, on 23 September, by donating reading books, visual aids and school supplies.

The celebration also included **The Cat in the Hat Social**, an evening of fellowship and fun for Rotary members, and concluded with **Read, Recycle & Rise**, a creative initiative that combines literacy promotion with environmental responsibility through the donation of garbage bins to Central Eleuthera High School. We're Interactors and Rotarians held a friendly competition on the best literacy-themed painting of the bins on 3 October.

Through these impactful projects, the Rotary Club of Eleuthera continues its commitment to strengthening literacy, empowering young people, supporting educators, and building stronger communities. Together, we are proving that when we **Read, Lead, and Serve**, we create a brighter future for Eleuthera.

"Unlocking Potential: Education & Opportunity" meeting featuring Senator Keenan Johnson



ROTARY CLUB OF KINGSTON EAST & PORT ROYAL

Small Waves, Big Impact: KEPR Shows Up for Jamaica's Coastline

On Saturday, September 19, the Rotary Club of Kingston East & Port Royal (KEPR) teamed up with CEMEX once again for International Coastal Cleanup, joining a nationwide effort to keep our communities clean and our environment protected.

All across Jamaica, volunteers headed out to beaches, rivers, gullies and other waterways, with more than 170 cleanups happening islandwide. It was a good reminder that caring for the environment isn't about big promises. It starts with people who show up and get their hands dirty.



On location of beach clean up


Post Clean Up

KEPR registered over 11 volunteers, including club members, prospective members and families of Rotarians. They gave their time and energy to a cause that affects all of us, and every bit of it helps build a cleaner, healthier future for the generations coming after us.

International Coastal Cleanup is about more than collecting garbage. It's a reminder that the choices we make today shape the world we leave behind. The event spans more than 100 countries, and since it began, millions of volunteers have helped remove hundreds of millions of pounds of trash from beaches and waterways.

Continued from page 26

Every bottle picked up, every piece of waste cleared and every new volunteer who joins in moves us closer to a cleaner future.

At KEPR, we believe lasting impact comes from taking action, working together and inspiring others to join in. A big thank you to our volunteers and to the CEMEX team for another meaningful year of partnership.

Because a cleaner Jamaica isn't someone else's job. It starts with all of us.

Together, one cleanup at a time, we can make a lasting difference.



Prospective members in attendance



Garbage collected

ROTARY CLUB OF SOUTH OCEAN

Rotary Club of South Ocean supports Interact Club's Membership Drive

Rotarians from the Rotary Club of South Ocean (RCSO) supported the Interact Club of South Ocean at the Anatol Rodgers High School by organizing and executing a Membership Registration Drive, which saw more than 200 students registering their interest as future Interactors.

The Membership Drive took place during the school's Club Fair, which was held on campus in the auditorium on Thursday, 8th October 2026, from 10:00am to 1:30pm in the school's gymnasium and featured over twenty clubs and organizations.





The purpose of the Club Fair was to expose students to a variety of organizations, extracurricular opportunities, community initiatives, and avenues for personal, social, and professional development. The event is one of the best ways for students to find their place on campus, meet new people and try something different.

As a valued partner of the school and sponsor of the Interact Club, RCSO was a valuable addition to the event and provided students with an opportunity to learn more about the purpose, objectives and opportunities for involvement through Interact.

Participating organizations hosted an information table, displayed promotional materials, engaged with students, and provided information regarding membership, initiatives, service projects, and other opportunities available to young people.

Continued from page 27

Rotarians were delighted to join and contribute to what was an engaging and informative experience for students and future members of Interact.

Under the leadership of Youth Service Co-Chairpersons Past President Kathy Smith and Rotarian Sophie Saunders, students approached RCSO's table to learn more about the purpose of Interact, its objectives and how they could become members. Also assisting at the event were President Elect Syneisha Bootle, Service Projects Co-Chairperson Lenthera Culmer and Fundraising Co-Chairperson Erica Ferguson with fellow Rotarians participating throughout the day.

Speaking on the event, Past President Kathy shared - "Helen Keller once said 'Alone, we can do so little but together, we can do so much.' That is what the Anatol Rodgers Club Fair was all about. Every club, including the Rotary Club of South Ocean's Interact Club, had a chance to find students, share our passion, and do something bigger together. So the students stepped up, signed up and found where they belonged. The excitement and enthusiasm of





the students were felt and we look forward to this new chapter beginning next week", which signifies the reintroduction of the school's Interact Club of South Ocean.

The first meeting of the Interact Club will take place on 28 October and elections for the new Board will take place. The Club will meet twice per month on Wednesdays at 12:45pm.

The first project that the Interact Club of South Ocean will be to collect nonperishable food items for the month of November. The donation will be made during on Thanksgiving to their school food bank.

RCSO will also mentor the five grade twelve classes this school year. Ten Rotarians will be identified to participate in this programme.

ROTARY CLUB OF ST. ANDREW NORTH

Reflection, Connection and Laughter at the Peace Garden

Rotary Club of St. Andrew North - World Mental Health Day, October 10, 2026



Rotarians walk the meditation labyrinth at the Peace Garden on Saturday, October 10, 2026.

In recognition of World Mental Health Day, the Rotary Club of St. Andrew North hosted a Mental Wellness Session on October 10, 2026, at the Peace Garden, Hope Botanical Gardens. Hosted and coordinated by the Club's Mental Health Champion, Rotarian Herman Pinnock, the gathering brought together nine Northerners and two guests (spouses of Rotarians), for reflection, learning, relaxation and fellowship.

The venue was especially fitting. The Peace Garden, officially opened in March 2019, was developed through an initiative of the Rotary Club of St. Andrew, in partnership with the Nature Preservation Foundation and with funding support from the CHASE Fund. Conceived as a place for peaceful reflection, dialogue and conflict resolution, it offered a meaningful setting for the session.

Following opening remarks by Club President Patrick Forrest, attendees walked the meditation labyrinth. Unlike a maze, a labyrinth offers a single winding route towards the centre and back. Walking it slowly can encourage mindfulness, contemplation and a sense of calm.

The programme explored Jamaica's mental health landscape, anxiety, signs of stress and practical stress-management approaches. Small-group discussions gave participants an opportunity to share perspectives and personal experiences in an atmosphere of empathy and mutual support.

Continued from page 29



The 11 Rotarians and guests in attendance of the Mental Health Session - Saturday, October 10, 2026.

The session also made room for humour. A lively joke competition brought laughter to the gathering, with Club Secretary Andrea Fullwood winning the prize for the best joke. The day concluded with refreshments generously sponsored by Rotarian Herman, providing further time to connect and enjoy Rotary fellowship.

More than an educational session, the gathering was an opportunity to bond, be vulnerable at times and support one another. It reinforced a simple message: caring for mental wellness includes making space for reflection, supportive relationships and moments of joy.



Rotarian Herman Pinnock (left) presents Secretary Andrea Fullwood with prize for winning the joke competition on Saturday, October 10, 2026.



Secretary Andrea Fullwood (left) serving her meal as Rotarian Herman Pinnock (right) looks on. Sergeant-at-arms PP Carlton Cowell in the background - Saturday, October 10, 2026.

ROTARY CLUB OF

OLD FORT

October at RCOF: Creating Lasting Impact Through Service, Fellowship and Opportunity



October has been a month of meaningful service, fellowship and community engagement for the Rotary Club of Old Fort (RCOF). Guided by Rotary's focus on Economic and Community Development, our members have continued to strengthen partnerships, support young people and create opportunities for lasting impact.

Reflecting, Reconnecting and Renewing Our Commitment

We began the month with our October 7 Club Assembly, bringing members together to reflect on our first-quarter accomplishments and prepare for the months ahead. Committee updates covered finances, membership, community service, the Rotary Foundation, club administration and training, providing opportunities for members to ask questions, share ideas and contribute to the Club's direction.

Members also wore pink in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, honouring those we have lost, celebrating survivors and standing in solidarity with those currently facing breast cancer. Our message was simple: We wear pink together. We stand together. We support the fight together.

Building Kinder, Stronger Communities

On October 13, RCOF returned to Adelaide Primary School for the Kindness Project: Choose Kindness. Be the Change. This anti-bullying initiative brought students, educators and Rotarians together to promote kindness, respect and inclusion.

RCOF Wellness Champion Dr. Petra Forbes and guest speaker Rodericka Collie spoke to students about how words and actions affect others. Community Service Co-Chair PP Derek Smith led students in the Kindness Pledge, encouraging them to



Continued from page 31

"Be a Buddy, Not a Bully." The programme also featured a Kindness Tree and lunch for the students and teachers by the Lyford Cay Club, reinforcing the importance of creating a supportive school community.

Empowering Bahamian *Entrepreneurship*

At our October 21 club meeting, we welcomed Samantha Rolle, Executive Director of the Small Business Development Centre, for a conversation themed "From Idea to Enterprise: Creating the Next Generation of Bahamian Entrepreneurs." The meeting highlighted the importance of entrepreneurship, innovation and small business development in strengthening the Bahamian economy.

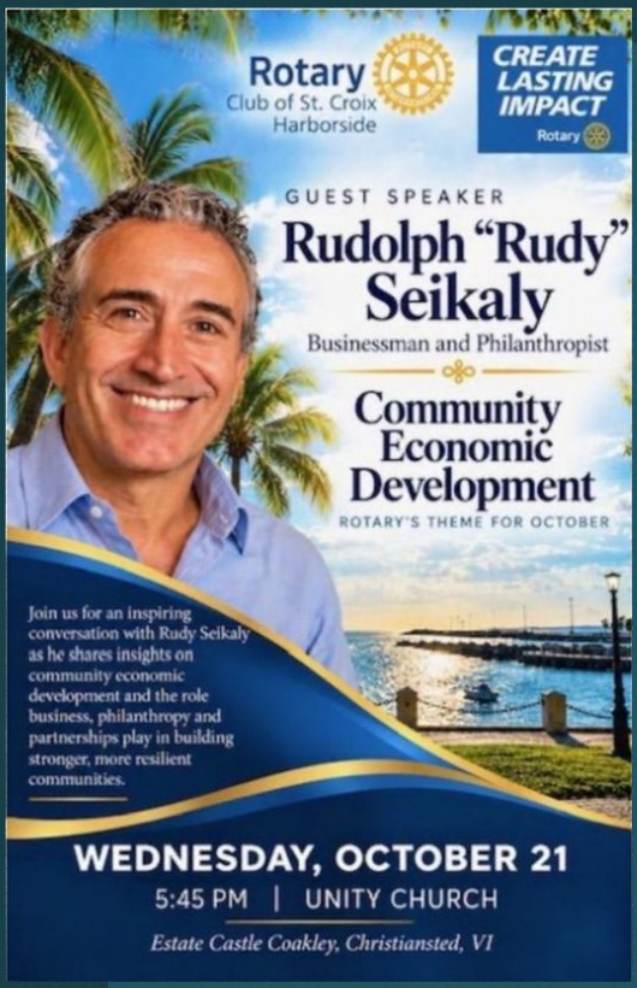


ROTARY CLUB OF

ST. CROIX HARBORSIDE

Rotary Club of St. Croix Harborside Hosts Rudy Seikaly for Community Economic Development Month

By Juliet John-Hope
Club President
Rotary Club of St. Croix harborside



In recognition of Community Economic Development Month, the Rotary Club of St. Croix Harborside hosted Rudolph "Rudy" Seikaly, a Lebanese-American engineer, philanthropist, and co-founder of MCN Build, alongside Bassem Boustany and Joseph Khoury.

MCN Build is committed to empowering communities around the world through sustainable, state-of-the-art construction while creating local employment opportunities, supporting education, and promoting corporate social responsibility. Guided by a purpose-driven approach, Seikaly believes that social justice begins with education.

During his presentation, Seikaly shared insights into the role he has been playing in the development of St. Croix. Among his notable contributions is the construction of a state-of-the-art pre-K through eighth-grade school, representing a significant investment in the island's educational infrastructure. Through this project, approximately $2 million has been invested in the local community, with local contractors engaged to assist in the school's construction, helping to stimulate economic activity and create employment opportunities.

In addition to his investment in education, Seikaly has refurbished a hotel on the island and revealed that several other projects are in the pipeline for St. Croix. These initiatives reflect his continued interest in contributing to the island's economic growth, creating opportunities for local businesses, and supporting the wider community.

Looking ahead, Seikaly expressed an interest in collaborating with the Rotary Club of St. Croix Harborside to help fund some of the club's community service projects. This potential partnership presents an exciting opportunity to combine resources and shared commitments to make a meaningful and lasting difference in the lives of those served by the club.

Looking ahead, Seikaly expressed an interest in collaborating with the Rotary Club of St. Croix Harborside to help fund some of the club's community service projects. This potential partnership presents an exciting opportunity to combine resources and shared commitments to make a meaningful and lasting difference in the lives of those served by the club.

The Rotary Club of St. Croix Harborside appreciates Seikaly's visit and his willingness to share his vision and ongoing investments with its members. His presentation served as a reminder that community economic development extends beyond construction and investment; it is about creating opportunities, strengthening communities, investing in education, and building a sustainable future for generations to come.

ROTARY CLUB OF Petion Ville

District Governor's Official Visit to Port-au-Prince



The District Governor's official visit to Port-au-Prince, from October 10 to 13, was a meaningful occasion marked by fellowship, collaboration, and the strengthening of Rotary ties across the metropolitan area. Upon arrival at the airport on October 10, the Governor received a warm welcome from PDG Dominique and the three Assistant Governors before being escorted to the Montana Hotel under the protection of the Diplomatic Police.

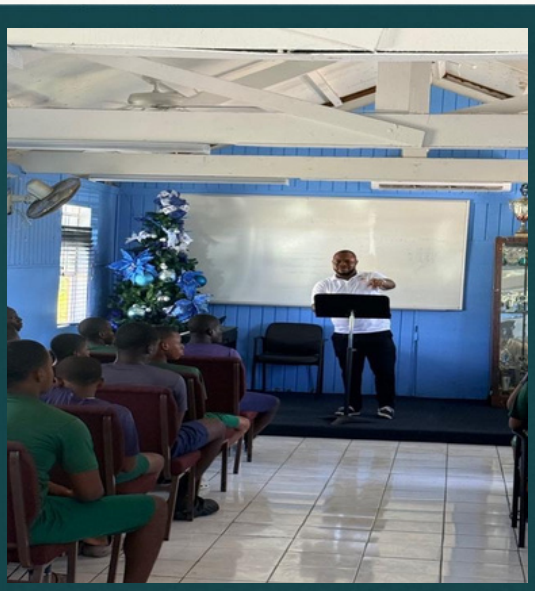
The visit began with a tour of a local handicraft fair, highlighting the richness of Haitian culture and craftsmanship, followed by strategic discussions with Rotary leaders. Over the following two days, the Governor met with representatives of several Rotary and Rotaract clubs, including Bourdon, Delmas Aéroport, Delmas Centre, Juvenat, Pétion-Ville, Pétion-Ville Sud, Port-au-Prince, and Port-au-Prince Champs de Mars.

These meetings provided an opportunity to review ongoing projects, encourage members in their service initiatives, and reaffirm Rotary's commitment to community development and humanitarian action. Moments of fellowship, including a brunch offered by the metropolitan clubs and several shared dinners, fostered constructive dialogue and strengthened the spirit of friendship and cooperation that defines Rotary.

For the Rotary Club of Pétion-Ville, this visit represented a special occasion and a highly productive working session with the District Governor. The meeting provided an opportunity for meaningful discussions on ongoing projects, key challenges, and future development opportunities, while further strengthening collaboration and the shared commitment to Rotary's ideals and mission.

The Governor departed Port-au-Prince on October 13, encouraged by the dedication of the clubs and confident in their continued commitment to "Service Above Self."

ROTARY CLUB OF South East Nassau



RCSEN vocational service director Wilfred Bain who hosted the event and kept the young men engaged.

Inspiring Young Men at Simpson Penn Centre for Boys

RCSEN joined forces with the Rotary Club of West Nassau and Toastmasters International for a Career Day at the Simpson Penn Centre for Boys.

The initiative went beyond introducing career opportunities. It was about restoring hope, encouraging ambition and reminding young men that the decisions of their past do not have to define their future.

Through meaningful engagement with professionals from various fields, the young men were encouraged to explore possibilities, ask questions and envision a brighter path forward. For some, the journey may have been difficult, but the message was clear: **everyone deserves an opportunity to rewrite their story.**



Members of Rotary Club of South East Nassau, Toastmasters International and Rotary Club of West Nassau join together for a wonderful career day at Simpson Penn Centre for Boys

This initiative reflected the true spirit of Service Above Self and reinforced that economic empowerment begins with exposure, education and encouragement. As we celebrate 50 years of service, we remain committed to making a difference, one life at a time.

COLUMBUS PRIMARY CLUB FAIR – EARLYACT

RCSEN was delighted to participate in the Columbus Primary School Club Fair on October 1, 2026, where our South Easters joined forces with the EarlyAct Club Advisor to encourage students to become part of the Rotary family!

The excitement was evident as students learned about the opportunities to develop leadership skills, build friendships and, most importantly, discover the joy of giving back to their school and community.

Continued from page 35

Through EarlyAct, we are planting the seeds of Service Above Self at an early age, helping to nurture the next generation of compassionate leaders and People of Action.

Our 2027–2028 President-Elect

Leadership and continuity remain essential to Rotary's success. We are therefore delighted to congratulate Rotarian Javon Morley on his election as President for the 2027–2028 Rotary year.

We look forward to supporting President Elect Javon as he prepares to take the helm and contribute his own chapter to our Club's remarkable history.



President Candice and Rotarian Michaela speak with the students about Earlyact Club.



Youth and Literacy Director Pam hugging earlyact student

PINK IT UP FRIDAYS

Throughout October, RCSEN partnered with the Rotaract Club of South East Nassau Centennial for **Pink It Up Fridays**, in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. By encouraging members to wear pink every Friday, we sought to raise awareness, promote early detection and stand in solidarity with those affected by breast cancer. This initiative reminded us that community development also means caring for the health and well-being of those around us.

ROTARY CLUB OF

Port-au-Prince Champ de Mars

When Service Becomes Poetry: The Multifaceted Commitment of Rotary Port-au-Prince Champ de Mars





There are months when the Rotary calendar underscores the urgency of action. September, the month dedicated to literacy and basic education, offered Rotary Port-au-Prince Champ de Mars the opportunity to launch a symphony of initiatives, proving that altruism knows no borders or rigid boundaries.

The Gift of Self

True to their values, members of the Rotary Port-au-Prince Champ de Mars turned out with unwavering conviction, alongside major partners—the Digicel Foundation, LEADERS, and the dynamic representatives of Rotaract. In total, 64 donors were honored.

Among them, the club's Rotarians and Rotaractors made a strong impression, standing out for their generosity. Behind this number lies a human reality; that of outstretched arms and the silent promise that no life should be lost due to a lack of blood.

On September 26, 2026, Port-au-Prince was the scene of a mobilization that was as noble as it was essential. During the day dedicated to blood donation, held under the evocative theme “Gout San Sove Lavi,” the drive was masterfully organized by the Konbit San pou San organization.

Education: A Bulwark Against Ignorance

But Rotary doesn't just save lives in the immediate term; it works to uplift them. On September 30, 2026, the club looked to the future by visiting the Daguesseau Lespinasse National School. With palpable care, the members distributed 50 complete school kits (including backpacks and educational materials) to the students.

Continued from page 37

ROTARY CLUB OF

PORT-AU-PRINCE CHAMP DE MARS



Giving a child the tools for learning is like giving them the keys to a future they will build with their own hands. The initiative went beyond the mere material aspect of the donation to embrace a preventive dimension. The committee conducted an in-depth awareness campaign among school administrators regarding the dangers of polio, establishing a comprehensive vigilance protocol: teachers were urged to conduct rigorous follow-up to ensure that every student is vaccinated against this scourge.

From Action to Impact

These two initiatives, though distinct, share a common goal: the holistic well-being of the community. The work of Rotary Port-au-Prince Champ de Mars goes beyond words; it translates into measurable actions: Whether it's providing a school supply kit to a child in Daguesseau Lespinasse or actively participating in the Konbit San pou San fundraising drive, every gesture counts. These achievements demonstrate that true service addresses the most urgent needs by uniting people around a common cause. It is this ability to take concrete action that is the strength of our movement and leaves a lasting impact on our communities!!

WORLD POLIO DAY

24 OCTOBER

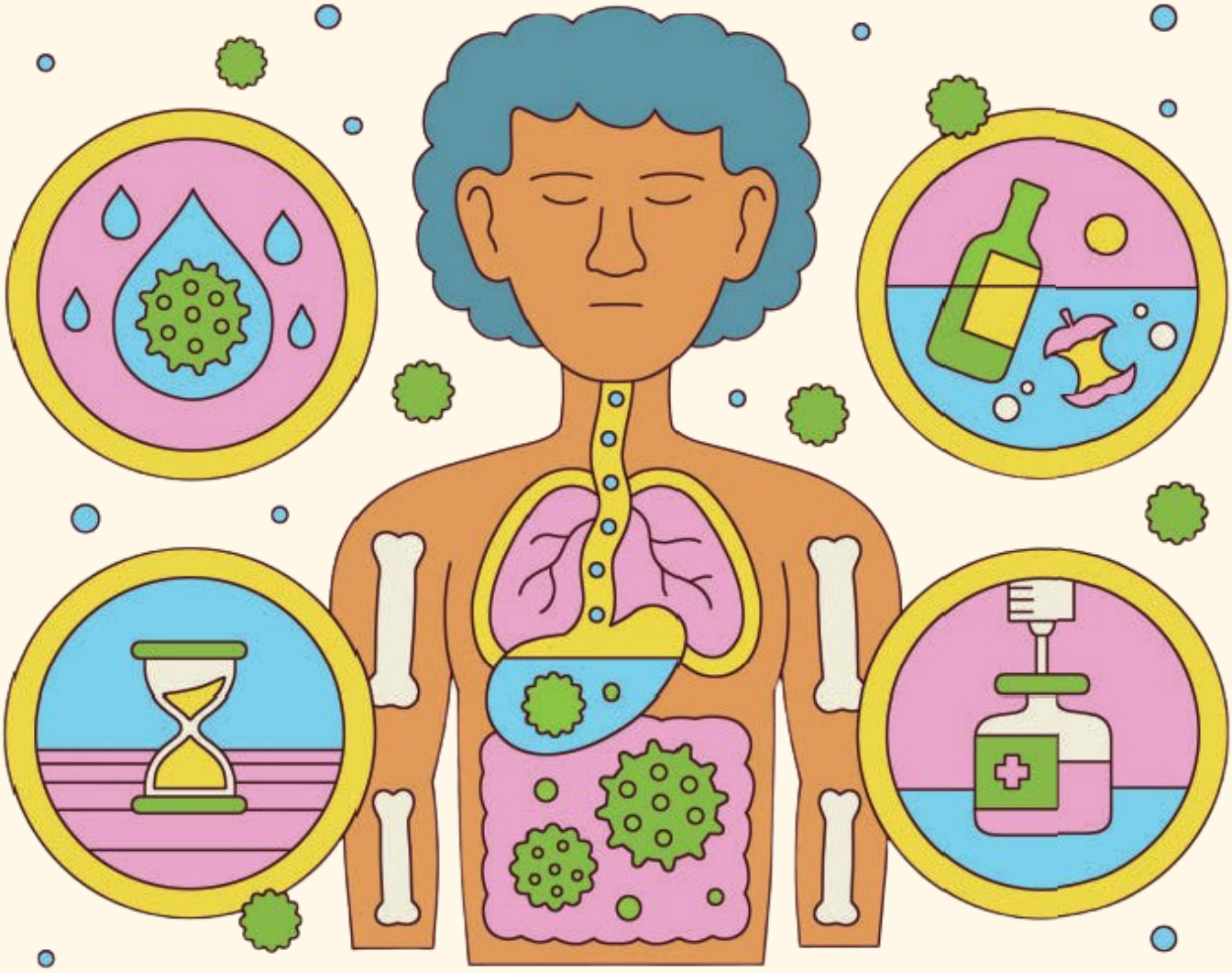
Together, we end polio



Register your World Polio Day event

Rotary

END POLIO NOW



HANDBOOK

Polio basics

Need to brush upon the facts? Here's a primer just in time for World Polio Day. Find out more on the refreshed End Polio Now website at **endpolio.org.**

What is polio?

The polio virus is an intestinal virus that is spread from person to person, typically through contaminated water.

Poliomyelitis is the disease caused by the polio virus. It can attack the nervous system and, in some instances, lead to paralysis. For several weeks, infected individuals shed poliovirus into the environment, where it can spread rapidly, especially in areas with poor sanitation and under-immunized communities. Although there is no cure, there are safe and e ective vaccines — which Rotary and its partners have used to immunize over 3 billion children worldwide since 1988.

Illustration by Jackson Gibbs

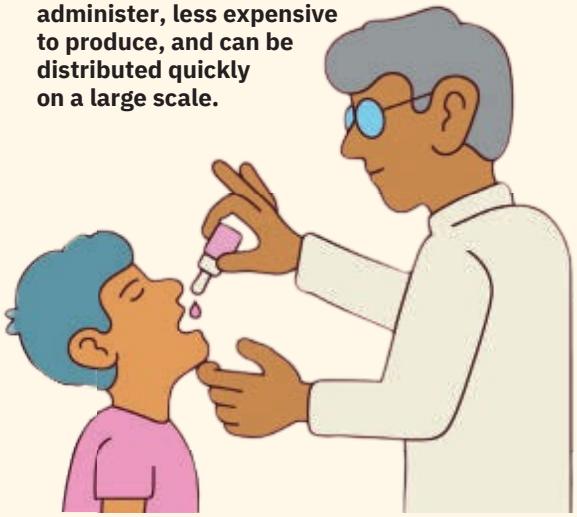
The vaccines

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative uses two types of vaccines:

The inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) was developed by Dr. Jonas Salk andapprovedforuse in 1955. The vaccine consists of inactivated (killed) poliovirus, producing antibodies in the blood that prevent the spread of the virus to the central nervous system and protect against paralysis. IPV is given by injection and needs to be administered by a trained health worker.

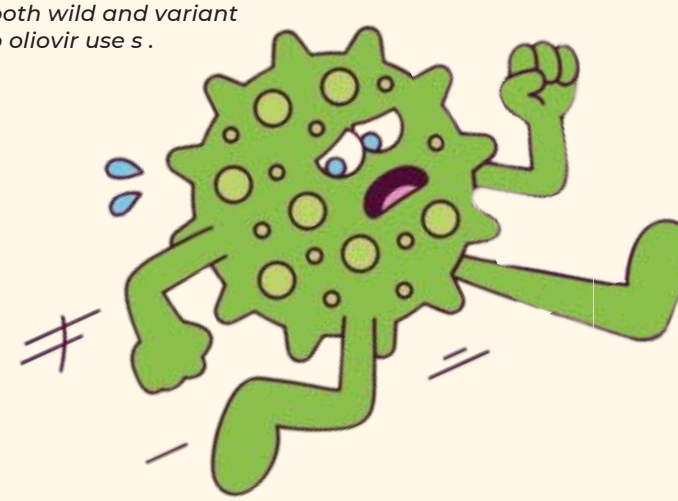


The oral polio vaccine (OPV) is made from strains of poliovirus that are **live but weakened. It was developed by Dr. Albert Sabin and began to be used in national immunization programs in 1959 . The weakened vaccine virus provides better immunity in the gut where polio replicates. It's excreted in the stool, and in communities with low-quality sanitation, the vaccine virus can spread from person to person, result- ing in "passive" immunization and stopping transmission. It's also easier to administer, less expensive to produce, and can be distributed quickly on a large scale.**

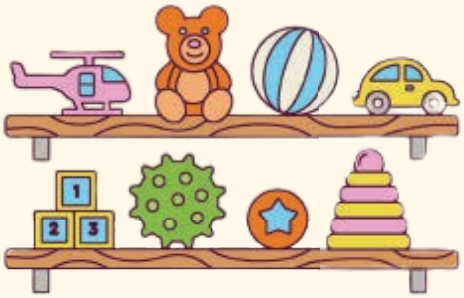


Two types of polioviruses

High immunization ratesare the best protection against both wild and variant p oliovir use s .



Wild polioviruses are the naturally occurring strains of polioviruses. Type 2 wild poliovirus was declared eradicated in September 2015. Type 3 wild poliovirus was declared eradicated in October 2019. The few cases of wild poliovirus that we see now are all of type 1. As of 17 August , only 22 cases have been confi rmed in 2026, and it is circulating in only two countries: Afghanistan and Pakistan.



Variant polioviruses can occur in places with low immunization rates. As the weakened vaccine virus is spread from one unvaccinated child to another over an extended period of time (often 12-18 months), it can revert to a form that can cause paralysis . This reverted poliovirus can then spread. A new version of the oral polio vaccine has reduced this risk. As of 17 August, there have been 124 cases of variant poliovirus in 2026 .



TRUSTEE CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Like a Rock

Being a rock is Rotary's quiet superpower, and with this year's instability, we've been reminded how much that matters.

Families face displacement, communities navigate climate shocks, and humanitarian needs arise both close to home and across the places we serve. Yet even as the world shifts, Rotary's response remains steady, compassionate, and effective. We don't turn away from uncertainty — we meet it with purpose.

The Rotary Foundation was not built for fair weather. Over the last decade, we have strengthened our approach: weaving sustainability into every project, expanding partnerships, and embracing evidence-based solutions. This evolution has made us more resilient and more community-driven.

It's why our comprehensive goal of raising $500 million across the Annual Fund, Endowment Fund, and PolioPlus Fund is not only ambitious but achievable. We've proved before that we could reach it, and momentum is building again.

While global attention shifts from one crisis to the next, Rotary stays. We convene partners who might never otherwise collaborate. We mobilize resources quickly because our networks are already in place, built through decades of trust. And we strengthen communities not through one-time interventions but by sustained presence and shared commitment.

Nowhere is this dedication more evident than in our work to end polio. Last month, I asked you to reflect on your club's role in this historic effort, and many of you responded with renewed energy and generosity.

Polio cases are down more than 99 percent since Rotary began this fight, a testament to the health workers, volunteers, and members who kept vaccinating children through wars, border closures, and every imaginable obstacle. They didn't know how the story would end. They knew who they were, and they kept going.

That is our inspiration in this moment. When the ground feels unsteady, Rotary becomes the stable ground. When plans shift, we are the partner who responds. When the path forward is unclear, our strength of self becomes our compass.

By the time you read this, I will be in a place that has tested my own footing. I'll share the full story online, and it's one you won't want to miss.

Let us continue being an organization the world can count on. We may not always know how every challenge will be solved. But we know who we are, and that's always been enough for us to begin.

JENNIFER JONES
Foundation Trustee Chair

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

THE OBJECT OF ROTARY

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:
First The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
Second High ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
Third The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;
Fourth The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

THE FOUR WAY TEST

Of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the **truth**?
2. Is it **fair** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **goodwill** and **better friendships**?
4. Will it be **beneficial** to all concerned?

MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT

All members (Rotarians and Rotaractors) are expected to:

1. Act with integrity and high ethical standards in their personal and professional lives.
2. Treat others fairly by using respectful language, being supportive, fostering a welcoming environment, and honoring all individual member characteristics.
3. Use their professional skills through Rotary to improve people's quality of life in their own communities and elsewhere in the world.
4. Avoid behavior that reflects adversely on Rotary or other Rotary members.
5. Follow all codes of conduct for any Rotary-related event.

Rotary
District 7020

CREATE
LASTING
Impact

District News & Events

Highlighting stories that help shape our district



SEPTEMBER MONTHLY CLUB CHALLENGE:

September marked Basic Education and Literacy Month, and Rotary and Rotaract clubs across our district truly rose to the occasion. We are thrilled to officially announce the winners of this month's challenge!

The judging committee was deeply impressed by the extraordinary quality, creativity, and dedication demonstrated in the submitted projects. Our clubs showed that learning to read and fostering a love for education goes far beyond traditional classrooms, it is a vibrant, community wide experience.

This month, clubs employed an inspiring range of interactive strategies to engage young learners and make literacy fun and accessible. Through dynamic activities, participants learned to read and express themselves using:Interactive and Word Games ;Hands-on Creativity; Storytelling and Expressive Arts, etc.

Beyond individual workshops, the scope and innovation of this month's projects were truly remarkable. Clubs transformed public spaces and embraced modern tools to create lasting impact: Literacy in Public Spaces; distributions of school supplies, books and bags; eye clinic for students; Digital Literacy & Resilience, Literacy walk run, etc.

Congratulations to Our Winners:
1st Place: Rotary Club South East Nassau (RCSEN)

2nd Place: Rotary Club West Nassau

3rd Place: Rotary Club St Martin Sunset

Winner for Rotaract: Rotaract Club of Kingston

Thank you to every club, volunteer, partner, and participant who poured their heart into making Basic Education and Literacy Month an overwhelming success. Your innovation, passion, and hard work are actively transforming lives and communities.

The Monthly Club Challenge Committee

Rotary District 7020

CREATE LASTING Impact

CONGRATULATIONS

TO OUR SEPTEMBER

Club of the Month

WINNERS



1ST ROTARY CLUB OF SOUTH EAST NASSAU

2ND ROTARY CLUB OF WEST NASSAU

3RD ROTARY CLUB OF ST MARTIN SUNSET

WINNER FOR ROTARACT:
ROTARACT CLUB OF KINGSTON


Who's WHO
Rotary
District 7020
COMING JANUARY 2027
A CELEBRATION OF PEOPLE, PROFESSIONS AND POSSIBILITIES.
THE PUBLICATION WILL:
• Highlight Key members leaders & changemakers
• Showcase Profiles of diverse professions & community impact
• Create Connections and opportunities for collaboration
• Promote Business service and partnership growth
CONNECT | PROMOTE | SUPPORT | DO BUSINESS TOGETHER
ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE • BE SEEN • BE CONNECTED



DISTRICT 7020

PAUL HARRIS SOCIETY

ONE THOUGHTFUL CONVERSATION

Foundation Month invites every club to identify a supporter who may be waiting for a personal invitation

By John Laramore, MBA
District 7020 Paul Harris Society Coordinator

Recently, after a Paul Harris Society recognition, a Rotarian told me: "The only reason I did not join earlier was that I was waiting for someone to ask me."

His words reveal an opportunity. Some Rotarians already believe deeply in The Rotary Foundation and give consistently. What they may not have received is a clear explanation and a thoughtful invitation.

A distinction worth understanding

A Paul Harris Fellow recognizes eligible cumulative contributions of US$1,000 or more, whether contributed personally or in someone's honour. The Paul Harris Society recognizes individuals who notify The Rotary Foundation of their intention to contribute US$1,000 or more during each Rotary year.

One recognition does not automatically lead to the other. A Paul Harris Fellow may welcome information about making an annual commitment, but club leaders should never assume that the member is ready.

Begin with appreciation

Club Presidents, Foundation Chairs and trusted members are usually best positioned to begin these conversations. They know their members and can judge whether the timing is appropriate.

Start by thanking the member for the support already provided. Ask which Foundation causes matter most and listen carefully. Then explain how dependable annual giving helps Rotary sustain meaningful service.

When divided evenly, the PHS commitment is approximately US$83.34 per month. Rotary Direct can make recurring giving convention, but it is not required. Members may contribute through the method and schedule that work best for them.

READ MORE →

District 7020 *Paul Harris Society – One Thoughtful Conversation*

An invitation without pressure

Paul Harris Society outreach should never feel like a sales campaign. Explain the commitment, answer questions and allow the member time to decide. A respectful conversation strengthens trust, even when the answer is "not yet."

When someone joins, ask how that person wishes to be recognized. Some members welcome a public presentation, photographs, and publicity. Others prefer private acknowledgment. Stewardship means respecting those preferences and connecting members with the impact they support.

One action during Foundation Month

This November, I invite every District 7020 club to identify one member who may welcome a conversation about the Paul Harris Society. Choose the appropriate person to make the approach. Lead with gratitude, connect the member's interests to Foundation impact and leave the decision with them.

A committed Foundation supporter in your club may already be willing to take the next step. That person may simply be waiting for someone to ask.

For information, contact your Club Foundation Chair or the District 7020 Paul Harris Society Coordinator.

> *"A respectful conversation strengthens trust, even when the answer is 'not yet.'"*



DG Lindsey Cancino celebrates new Paul Harris Society members Staphie Withney Jeanty and Marlène Gay during his October 2026 visit to Haiti. Personal invitations and thoughtful recognition help strengthen sustained engagement with The Rotary Foundation.

PHOTO CREDIT: PHOTOGRAPH BY YVENSON METELLUS, COURTESY OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF PÉTION-VILLE.

ROTARY E-CLUB OF THE CARIBBEAN, DISTRICT 7020

Beyond Eradication: The Economic Impact of Ending Polio



Screen shot from PDG Vidal Wachuku's presentation to the eClub of the Caribbean, 7020, on October 17th.

During a recent meeting of the Rotary E-Club of the Caribbean 7020, Past President Roger White shared a memory from his time in Nigeria during the 1960s. There was a man who was affected by polio, earning a modest living watching parked cars. Although unable to stand, the man insisted on opening Roger's car door whenever he arrived. For that service, the man earned one Nigerian shilling a week. But what stayed with PP Roger was the man's dignity and determination to earn a living. Decades later, he still becomes emotional recalling that encounter.

That story offers an unexpected perspective on October's Rotary theme: Community Economic Development. As Rotarians, we often associate economic development with jobs, entrepreneurship, and investment. Yet the ability to pursue those opportunities also depends on health.

That connection took on new meaning when our guest speaker, Past District Governor Vidal Wachuku, described his firsthand experiences fighting polio in Nigeria. Formerly of the Rotary Club of Abuja, Nigeria, and now a member of the Rotary Club of Kissimmee Bay in Orlando, Florida, PDG Vidal personally administered oral polio vaccines to children in his home country.

But his service was not without danger. On one occasion, men warned him to leave their village, accusing the vaccination teams of trying to sterilize children. He actually had to run, fearing for his life. His startling account reminds us that Rotary's eradication efforts require more than financial contributions. They demand courage, persistence, and a willingness to build trust in communities where misinformation can threaten progress.

In conjunction with World Polio Day on October 24, these stories underscored the connection between disease prevention and economic opportunity.

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Throughout October, our eClub's meetings have returned repeatedly to polio eradication through presentations, personal experiences, and videos.

Even our Rotary Minutes have touched on the origins of World Polio Day and highlighted Rotary's General Secretary John Hewko's "Miles to End Polio" fundraising efforts.



Photo from https://raise.rotary.org/en-GB/project/2026-miles-to-end-polio

Throughout October, our eClub's meetings have returned repeatedly to polio eradication through presentations, personal experiences, and videos. Even our Rotary Minutes have touched on the origins of World Polio Day and highlighted Rotary's General Secretary John Hewko's "Miles to End Polio" fundraising efforts.

Together, these discussions reveal why polio eradication is inextricably linked to community economic development. A healthier child has greater opportunities to learn. An educated young person has greater opportunities to earn. And economically empowered individuals help build stronger communities.

Rotary's areas of focus do not exist in isolation. Disease prevention supports maternal and child health, education, and ultimately the economic resilience of communities. The benefits extend beyond those receiving a vaccine to families and future generations.

PP Roger's memory shows us the dignity of someone determined to work despite formidable obstacles. PDG Vidal's experience shows us what it takes to protect children from facing those preventable challenges.

Community economic development does not begin only with jobs or investments. Sometimes, it begins with a vaccine, a healthy child, and the opportunity to build a life of dignity and purpose.

Rotary District 7020 | Rotaract District 7020

DISTRICT 7020 CONFERENCE 2027

INTO THE BLUE

PARADISE MEETS PURPOSE

Book Your Accommodations



Atlantis Coral Towers

USD $259.00



Atlantis Royal Towers

USD $299.00

BOOK NOW

Alternative accommodations available on a limited basis

For more information, please contact
registration@7020.org

Prices reflect double occupancy and do not include taxes, resort fees and levies

ATLANTIS, PARADISE ISLAND, BAHAMAS

#IntoTheBlue7020

Rotary Zones 33/34

Zones 33/34 EPIC award

Excellence in Public Image Coordination

MONTH	TASK	DETAILS	DUE DATE
JULY	Public Image Audit	Conduct an AUDIT of your club's online resources, including social media, websites, print materials, cloud storage, and email accounts, along with associated access credentials (usernames and passwords) and user permissions. Use this audit to ensure correct and consistent Rotary branding across all channels and materials.	Oct 31, 2026
AUGUST	Public Image Plan	Create a PUBLIC IMAGE PLAN for your club by outlining what content you'll share, when you'll share it, where you'll share it, and how you'll get the word out. Let's start planning!	Oct 31, 2026
SEPTEMBER	Content Calendar	Create a CONTENT CALENDAR for your club activities this Rotary year so everyone knows what and when the public image focus will be each month. The calendar will support your plan by having content each month based on your club activities. Your calendar will continue to evolve throughout the Rotary year, but this should be your starting point.	Oct 31, 2026
OCTOBER	Learning Center	Complete the public image courses in Rotary's LEARNING CENTER. For club public image chairs, it is suggested you follow the recommended courses for this role which can be found in the "Club Public Image Committee Basics" learning plan.	Nov 30, 2026
NOVEMBER	World Polio Day	Report how your club celebrated World Polio Day, whether by educating your community about Rotary's efforts to End Polio Now or by hosting an event to raise funds and awareness for the PolioPlus Fund. Tell us how your initiative engaged your community and amplified Rotary's commitment to ending polio for good.	Dec 31, 2026
DECEMBER	Task Feedback	Provide FEEDBACK on how the Zones 33/34 Public Image Team has supported your efforts to enhance your public image so far and how we can further assist you in 2027. What are we doing well? How can we improve? And what type of content would be beneficial as you share your Rotary story?	Jan 31, 2027
JANUARY	Tell & Amplify Your Club's Story	Share a compelling, public-facing STORY that highlights your club's service project or community impact. Include a strong headline, engaging visuals, and a clear explanation of the need being addressed and the difference your club is making. The story should be shared beyond internal communications (through local media, an online news outlet, or your club's public social media or website) with the goal of reaching audiences outside of Rotary.	Feb 28, 2027
FEBRUARY	Collaboration for Greater Impact	Provide an example of how your club's Membership, Foundation, and Public Image teams worked together to advance a shared goal. This may include collaborating to promote a service project, highlight Foundation giving, support a fundraising effort, attract new members, or tell a stronger impact story. Describe how the coordination between these committees strengthened your messaging, increased engagement, or expanded your reach.	Apr 30, 2027
MARCH	Show Rotary in Action	Share three to four compelling photos or short videos that clearly demonstrate Rotary members taking action in your community. The VISUALS should capture authentic moments of service, collaboration, and impact...not posed group shots alone.	Apr 30, 2027
APRIL	Incoming Leaders	Share with us some feedback, and provide the names of your INCOMING CLUB LEADERS (president, secretary and public image chair) so we can continue to maintain contact with your club and provide the leaders with support for future public image goal and initiatives.	April 30, 2027

Public Image Live Virtual Events
Most Months on the 4th Wednesday at 6PM

Public Image Resources
rotaryzones3334.org/publicimage

SERVICE SATURDAYS

TOGETHER, WE CREATE LASTING IMPACT.

Rotary
District 7020
Creating Lasting Impact

One day.
Many projects.
Stronger communities.
A better tomorrow.



WHAT ARE YOUR CLUBS DOING?

From communities near and far, Rotary clubs across District 7020 are making a difference. Here are just a few ways we're showing up and creating change.

PROMOTING PEACE
Building understanding and fostering lasting peace.

FIGHTING DISEASE
Supporting health initiatives and improving lives.

PROVIDING CLEAN WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE
Improving access to clean water and sanitation for all.

SAVING MOTHERS & CHILDREN
Supporting maternal and child health and well-being.

SUPPORTING EDUCATION
Empowering students and strengthening futures.

GROWING LOCAL ECONOMIES
Creating opportunities that strengthen communities.

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT
Caring for our planet today for a better tomorrow.

SHARE YOUR IMPACT. INSPIRE OTHERS. BE EPIC.

READ MORE >

Tag us and use the hashtags below to be featured in upcoming editions!

#ServiceSaturdays | #District7020 | #CreateLastingImpact

SERVICE SATURDAYS

DISTRICT 7020 CREATE LASTING IMPACT.

Every act of service tells a story,
AND WE WANT TO SEE YOURS!

Complete a service project on any Saturday that aligns with Rotary's Five Avenue Of Service.

Share your project on social media using

#SERVICESATURDAY #DISTRICT7020 #CREATELASTINGIMPACT

Include photos and a brief description of your project and its impact.
The District Public Image Team will monitor the hashtags through MARCH 31st, 2027

EARN 50 BONUS POINTS

Every qualifying Service Saturday earns your club

50 BONUS POINTS

towards the District Governor's Goals

More importantly, it's an opportunity to showcase your club, inspire others, and celebrate Rotary in action across District 7020.

Tag us and use the hashtags below to be featured in upcoming editions!

#ServiceSaturdays | #District7020 | #CreateLastingImpact

ONE SATURDAY. MANY PROJECTS. LASTING IMPACT.

SHARE YOUR IMPACT. INSPIRE OTHERS. BE EPIC.

KEEP EXPLORING

USEFUL LINKS



VOICES OF 7020 PODCAST

HANWASH
Haiti National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Initiative

HANWASH

BARCELONA 2027

RI CONVENTION



ROTARY DISTRICT 7020 CONFERENCE



Create Lasting Impact

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MONTH

ROTARY DISTRICT 7020 | 7020.org