

August 2025

Rotary District 7090

Rotary Foundation Newsletter



Foundation Happenings

Foundation Goals

See page 6

Cluster Grant

See page 15



Doing Good in the World



See how one Club
Foundation Chair is
succesfull
page 4

See page 2 for
important dates
for 2025-26

ANNUAL PADDLE FOR POLIO - US

Date: August 16th, 2025
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Place: Mutual Riverfront Park
41 Hamburg St.
Buffalo, NY 14204
Register: www.rotary7090.org
Fee: Free with a Donation to Polio Plus

1
DAYS LEFT

Paddle for Polio Saturday
August 16

See pages 3, 8 and 9 for
District Polio Events



Introducing
Grants Chair
Page 5



Polio Society Event
page 13



July 1-Goals set for Foundation not too late!!

On going-qualifying for district and global grants online

VIRTUAL MEETING & OFFICE HOURS SCHEDULE

September PHF Recognition and Events
Register for the events on the District Website under events

All Welcome to Attend

FOUNDATION CELEBRATION

November 15 10a.m.-3 p.m.
District Grant Certification 2026-27
Foundation Awards and
District Awards 2024-25
Venue Announced soon

**TOGETHER, WE
END POLIO**

Polio Events:
August 16-Paddle for Polio-
September 13 2025-2 events-Canada/USA
Participate for polio

**June 10- deadline for global scholarship applications to RI for September 2026
starting or 3 months prior to courses**

**June 30 Contributions to Foundation for year 2025-26 must be postmarked by
June 30, and arrive by July 5**



presents

Paddle for Polio

Date: August 16th, 2025
Time : 10:00 a.m.
Place: Mutual Riverfront Park
41 Hamburg St.
Buffalo, NY 14204

Register: www.rotary7090.org

Fee: Free with a Donation to Polio Plus



Join your fellow Rotarians and friends to help raise funds for the Polio Plus Fund, raise awareness on Polio, enjoy fellowship, fun, and snacks, and probably get a little wet in the process!. Let's Unite for Good and eradicate Polio once and for all! We are so close!

Questions: Contact Event Chair Scott Marcin, PDG D7090 - sdmarcin@gmail.com



HATS OFF TO GENEROUS D7090 ROTARIANS!!!

We ask that all Rotarians contribute at least \$100 a year to the Rotary Foundation.

Monthly Feature: John Beyer
Club Foundation Chair-Rotary Club of Niagara Falls



John tells us a little bit about his journey and success as Foundation Chair and how the Rotary Club of Niagara Falls is number **ONE** in club giving to the Annual Fund

I have been a member of the Rotary club of Niagara Falls since 1989, except for a short break because of work. I started contributing \$100 US per year very early in my Rotary career, as that was outlined to me by the Foundation chair at the time as a goal that the club has set for all its members.

The idea was to accumulate enough Paul Harris credits for a Paul Harris Fellow within the first 10 years of your membership. Not all participated but the fact that the request had been made was good reason to find out more about where my hundred bucks was going every year.

Once I learned more about the breadth of the organization's impact, I became a convert and continued to contribute ever since.

One of our members back then, who has since died, was Frank Branscombe. He was a major property developer in town and had set up his own family Foundation to do philanthropic work not only for Rotary but for many other causes as well, with a focus on children. He had also bought an insurance policy, naming the Rotary Foundation as a beneficiary. As some members may know, that's a great way to give with a minimum of fuss and a tax deduction for the insurance premiums every single year. When Frank died, his insurance policy was big enough to allow him to become an Arch Klumph society member, defined as someone who has made \$250,000USD or more donations.

In addition, his Family Foundation has been instructed to give 2% of their distributable earnings to the Rotary Foundation each year. As their foundation has grown, so have the donations. Last year it was just over \$60,000 that was given to RI from the Branscombe Family Foundation.

In addition to that very generous donation, as the RI Foundation Chair for our Club, each November, which is Foundation month, I or someone from the District (free guest speaker!) make a presentation about what's going on, how the polio plus progress is so close to completion, and a broader discussion about the seven areas of focus. At that point, I asked for donations from members as a lump sum, as well as a request for signing up for Rotary Direct. Any amount is welcome, from \$10 a month and up. At this point, we have about a third of our members that are contributing this way.

Lastly, during our fireside chats for new members, I outline what the Foundation does and mention that I participate as a Paul Harris Society member and as a benefactor . I encourage the new members to sign up there and then. Not too many do because they still don't really know what it's about yet. However, about 50% do after their first year when they are more familiar. There is a lot to learn when you first join any club!

One more thing. I encourage other clubs to participate in the opportunity to use our district designated funds for any local projects that they're interested in. The application process, the oversight, and the range of projects that are eligible make it all very easy. After all, projects don't have to be big to be meaningful. They just have to be impactful in your community. We've done it a couple of times, for a food for schools program, and scholarships to the Niagara Parks Commission Horticultural school students. Lots more to come!

I encourage clubs to name a foundation chair that will promote future giving to the membership. If you donate yourself, you'll have more credibility asking others to donate. The fact that half the money comes back to be used in our district, perhaps even by the Club that actually made the donations has its own appeal.



DISTRICT GRANTS

New District Grants Chair - Sue Foster

As this is my first attempt at an article for the Foundation newsletter I thought I would introduce myself as your new District Grants Chair. I was honoured to be asked and accepted the appointment for the District Foundation. I have big shoes to fill as Lezlie Murch has stepped down from District Grants but will still be involved with Global Grants and mentoring me as I organize and learn my new role. I joined the Rotary Club of Lincoln in 2015. I served three terms as President from 2017-2020. I was Assistant District Governor for Area 5 for three years 2021-24 and stayed on for an extra year to act as AG for Areas 5&6. I am presently the Public Image Chair for the Lincoln Rotary Club. I am looking forward to working with all clubs to make a difference in our communities with all the inovative projects brought forward by our District clubs.

QUALIFYING YOUR CLUBS

In Preparation to Receive Matching Grants

First steps to preparing to submit a district grant request is to make sure your club has been qualified so you can receive matching funds.

- Clubs dues must be in good standing
- Enter Rotary Foundation and Polio goals, and an active Foundation Chair assigned into "My Rotary"
- have 2 ACTIVE members complete online training or attend a District Foundation training session
- Complete the MOU specific to district designated funds

Qualifying Document can be found:

<https://rotary7090.org/documents/en-ca/fac42728-3b7d-419a-9256-0d4a66054464/1/>

Congratulations to the following clubs that have set their goals to contribute to the Rotary Foundation Annual Fund in the goals centre (as of 8-3-2025)

- Ancaster Am
- Batavia
- Buffalo
- Clarence
- Fonthill
- Greater Jamestown AM
- Hamilton After 5
- Hamilton Stoney Creek
- Jamestown
- Kenmore
- Leroy
- Lewiston-NOTL
- Lincoln
- Lockport
- Niagara Falls On
- Niagara Falls Sunrise
- St. Catharines- Lakeshore
- St. Catharines South
- Welland

Not only is this the way we support the Rotary Foundation but also it is one of the criteria to qualify for District grants. If a club does not set goals, then it cannot qualify for district or global grants in our District 7090/ Setting goals is also one of the Rotary International ways to achieve a citation for your club. If you need help in setting goals, please contact the Fundraising committee,

Dave Alexander, John Weismantel or Annie Holtby

New This is is 3 year Goals Ask us how

ROTARY CLUB CENTRAL – GOAL SETTING

EDIT GOALS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- **President**
- **Secretary**
- **Treasurer**
- **Membership chair**
- **Foundation chair**

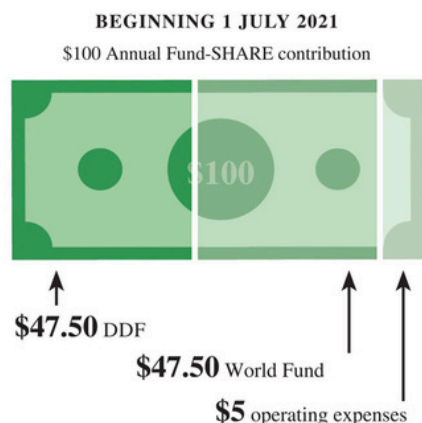


A FOUNDATION MOMENT

The Rotary Foundation is the engine that transforms and supports projects that changes lives in our local communities and around the world.

What is The Rotary Foundation Annual Fund?

The Annual Fund is the primary source of funds that support The Rotary Foundation's programs and areas of focus. Contributions to the Annual Fund are invested for three years to generate earnings to meet the Foundation's operating expenses.



From digging clean water wells for villages in Africa to teaching basic literacy skills to children in Latin America, during any given moment in a day, thousands of Rotarians volunteer their time and expertise to ensure that all contributions given to the Annual Fund are spent wisely on quality Rotary projects.

Our funds: A glossary

Annual Fund-SHARE is the primary source of funding for a broad range of local and international Rotary Foundation activities. Every Rotarian, Every Year is the initiative to encourage support for the Foundation's Annual Fund. It encourages every Rotarian to contribute to the Annual Fund every year. Contributions to Annual Fund-SHARE from Rotary members and other donors are directed into two subfunds: the World Fund and District Designated Funds. Through the SHARE system, contributions to The Rotary Foundation are transformed into grants.

The World Fund provides funding for our highest-priority activities around the globe. A percentage of SHARE-designated contributions is applied to the World Fund. The Foundation uses the World Fund to pay for grant and programme opportunities available to all Rotary districts, including PolioPlus, Rotary Peace Centres, Programmes of Scale grants, global grants and more.

District Designated Funds (DDF) can be used by districts to pay for Foundation, club and district projects that a club and others in the district choose. Districts may use up to half of their DDF to fund district grants. The remainder may be used for global grants or donated to Polio Plus, the peace centres, or another district.

The Endowment Fund, financed by cash gifts and bequests left by Rotary members and their families, ensures the long-term viability of the Foundation and its grants and programmes. Spendable earnings from the Endowment enable the Foundation to expand existing activities and underwrite new ones. Contributions are invested in perpetuity: A percentage of the total value of the fund is directed annually to Foundation grants and programmes.

Saturday September 13th 2025 - USA



District 7090 is hosting the **Annual Participate for Polio** event on Saturday, September 13, 2025. This annual fundraiser supports PolioPlus, Rotary's initiative to eradicate polio worldwide. We are not done yet!

About: Walk, Run or Ride the West River Trail, Grand Island State Park, Grand Island, NY, USA

When: Saturday, September 13th 10 AM - 12:30 PM

Host Club: Grand Island

Location: Assemble at the tent across from Lot 4 at 10 a.m.
Beaver Island Park, Lot 4, West River Trail, Exit 19 off I-190 Grand Island, NY

To donate or add your team: <https://raise.rotary.org/Sherry-Miller/fundraiser>

Raise for Rotary: If this is your first time joining a team on Raise for Rotary, pick the event in which you wish to participate above, from the landing page scroll below the picture and headers to "Team Members, Would you like to fundraise for Polio Fund? Join our team!". Click the Plus sign to create your fundraising page. Be sure to personalize it with an image and why you want to help End Polio. SAVE. Then share your individual page on social media asking for donations to support this important cause.

Contact: Sherry Miller sherrytaylorlormiller@gmail.com

TOGETHER, WE END POLIO

Saturday September 13th 2025 - Canada



Once again this year, Rotary District 7090 invites you to take part in a special event to End Polio: the **6th Annual Dr. Ron Mergl Participate for Polio** on Saturday, September 13. Bring your bike and join the ride!

Dr. Ron Mergl was a dedicated member of the Rotary Club of Niagara Falls for over 33 years, a past president, and a multiple Paul Harris Fellow. Alongside his wife June, he participated in Rotary International's Polio Immunization Days in both India and Benin, Africa. Ron passed away in July 2020, having lived by his mantra: always help those who have less.

Participants will gather at 10:00 a.m. at the St. Davids Lions Club, 1462 York Road, St. Davids, before cycling to Niagara-on-the-Lake. After our return, we will convene for food, beverages, and fellowship at The Old Firehall Restaurant, just a short distance away at 268 Four Mile Creek Road.

Our fundraising goal is \$5,000 CAD from the Ontario side of District. Due to global efforts led by Rotary, polio cases have dropped by 99.9%. Although we are closer than ever, significant challenges remain. Every \$1 you give becomes \$3 thanks to the 2:1 match from the Gates Foundation so Let's End Polio Now.

Please join our team or donate to PolioPlus by visiting:
<https://raise.rotary.org/Elaine-Richard/memorial822>

t



From an Endowment Point of View

"Doing good in the World"

"Doing good in the World" refers to the mission of The Rotary Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Rotary International, to transform contributions into projects that improve lives globally. This involves funding efforts to advance world understanding and peace, fight disease (like polio), support education, alleviate poverty, and improve the environment through a network of volunteers.

The Rotary Foundation is structured to raise capital and provide structured programs and grants to allow Rotarians to be successful in their effort of "Doing good in the World".

The purpose of the Endowment Fund is to earn investment income by investing donated gifts. Part of the investment earnings is used for designated programs and the rest is re-invested.

The Endowment Fund is beneficial to Rotarians for Estate planning, legacy, recognition, and the thought of "Doing good in the World" in perpetuity.

The Endowment Fund ensures that future Rotarians have the resources to create new opportunities that create solutions that empower individuals to further the work of "Doing good in the World".

Solving real problems takes real commitment and vision, by having an Endowment Fund Rotary sends a signal to the community and its donors that our organization is thinking long-term and building assets for its own sustainability.

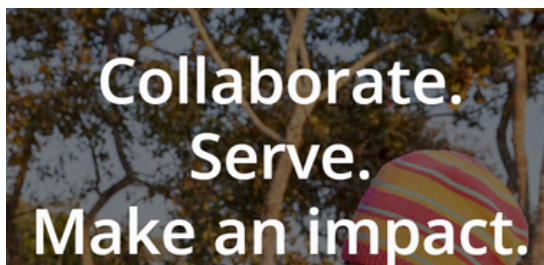
Therefore it is imperative that Rotarians realize that a Gift or Bequest to the Endowment Fund made today is an investment in building a healthier and more resilient and peaceful World.



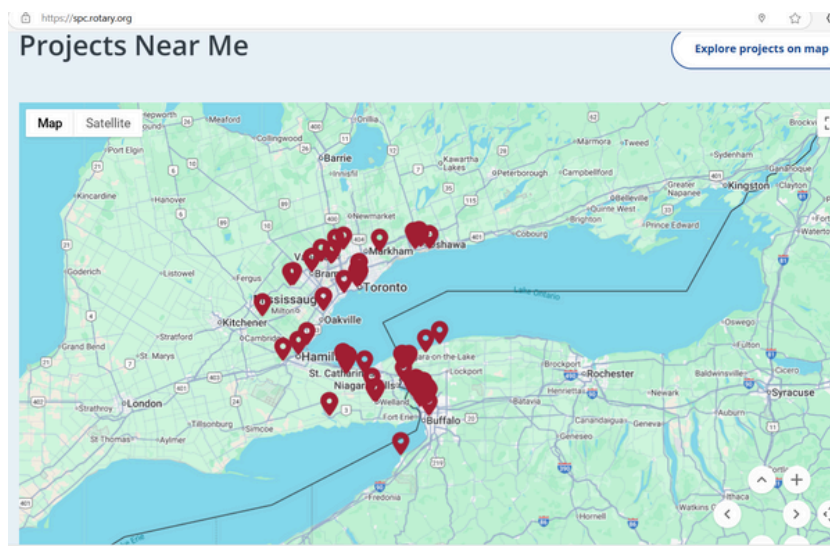
Wolfgang Lindemann
RC of Norfolk Sunrise
District Endowment/ Major Gift
Subcommittee Chair
wolflindemann1@gmail.com

Wolfgang will speak at your club on endowment and The Rotary Foundation

**Leaving a Legacy of Hope
Rotary's Endowment Fund**



Visit The Rotary Service Project Center -
Record Your Service Projects -
It's A New Year



Is your club project on the map!

The Service Project Center, Rotary's digital platform for service activities is up and running and it gives members more opportunities to manage service projects and share stories, best practices, and interests. With the introduction of this platform, Rotary Showcase has been retired. All Rotary and Rotaract service projects have been transferred to the Service Project Center.

The Service Project Center is a significant asset in Rotary's effort to engage participants more effectively and increase impact. Users can tell project stories more fully, demonstrating their effectiveness to potential members, partners, and donors. There are more opportunities to provide photos and details, making the project process more transparent and giving members more ways to feel pride in their results.

Rotary members and program participants are improving lives in communities around the world every day through thousands of service projects. Explore the good work that we're doing locally and globally, and share these projects through social media

Visit the Service Project Center regularly to record and update project details.

Rotary International is proud to announce the launch of the Service Project Center, a dynamic and feature-rich hub for all service projects. In the coming months, it will replace the current Rotary Showcase. The new Service Project Center will streamline processes, improve functionality, and provide better tools for managing your projects, empowering you to make an even more significant impact in your communities. Please ensure your club earns its 2025-26 achievement for the service projects goal in Rotary Club Central, project contacts should be created, added or updated your projects before June 30, 2026. Thank you for your commitment to service. We look forward to the exciting possibilities that the Service Project Center will offer!

2025-2026 Service Project Goal Achievements - We hope you are adding your Service projects to Rotary Service Project Center before 30 June 2026 to earn service project goal achievements in Rotary Club Central. Once projects are entered, you can update the achievements for the club's service project goals.

Service Project Opportunity

Great opportunity to be involved in projects around the world

Rotary
Districts 9101, 9103, 9104,
9111, 9112, 9126, 9127,
9141, 9142



**WEST AFRICA
PROJECT FAIR**

November 4-13, 2025
Lomé, Togo

Howard Tours will be traveling to:

Togo for the 2025 Rotary West Africa Project Fair and Community Service Program.

You can find this tour, and all our Rotary tour offerings, on our website www.howardtours.net

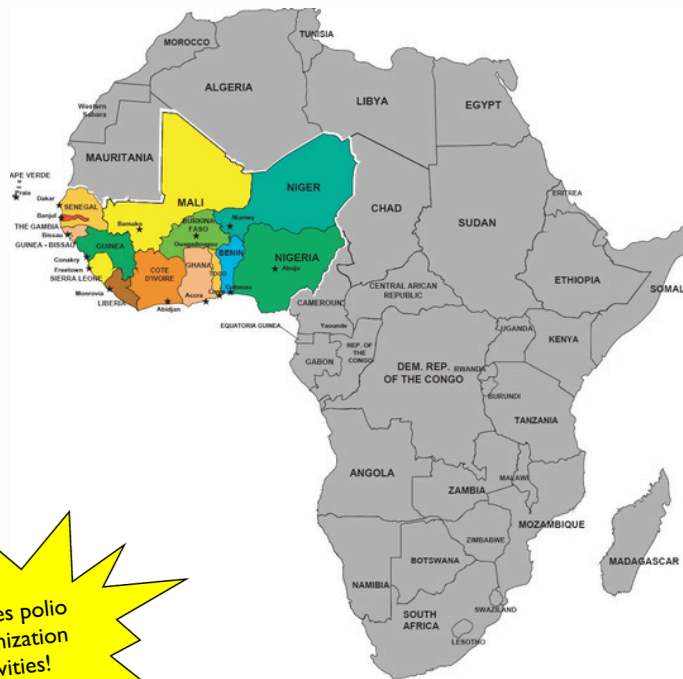
Share this information at your next club meeting to see if one of your members might want to join us.

This tour was specially created in partnership with the West African Rotarians to offer a chance to witness Rotary's impact on West Africa. The West Africa Project Fair is an ideal venue for your club to learn about, and find, opportunities for bona fide international service projects. The Fair is designed to develop connections between the African and North American Rotarians to generate greater support of the projects of Africa.

While in Togo, we will volunteer in the Community and have a chance to deliver Polio Vaccines. This unique journey is designed to give you, or your members, an extraordinary experience in travel and Rotary friendship. The size of our group is limited, and they typically fill up quickly.

This week-long trip is a hands-on experience in working with the local Rotary clubs to participate in community service project, project site visits, friendships and learning how to support the Rotary projects of West Africa. We will spend two days in the field connecting with the local communities.

We attend The West Africa Project Fair, which showcases Rotary projects from 15 West African nations. It will be a time to learn, experience and see how you and your club can **Unite for the Good of Africa!**



8 Days • Land Only

\$1,899 Per Person
Single Supplement \$625

Double Occupancy, Land Only
Round trip airfare not included.

Includes polio
immunization
activities!

Howard Tours

526 Grand Ave. Oakland CA 94610 USA

800-475-2260; 510-834-2260

Fax: 510-834-1019

Info@HowardTours.net

www.HowardTours.net

Calif. Seller of Travel 101526-10



PolioPlus Society Membership

● District 7090's PolioPlus Society

For nearly 40 years, **Rotarians have championed the fight against polio**. Rotary aims to raise \$50 million annually. And thanks to your support, we are This Close to eradicating this disease.

District 7090 proudly launches its PolioPlus Society, uniting members to fund polio eradication until Afghanistan and Pakistan are certified polio-free.

🎯 What It Means to Join

Members of the PolioPlus Society pledge to:

- Donate **\$100 USD or more annually** to the PolioPlus Fund
- Continue giving until polio is eradicated
- Contribute via EndPolio.org/donate, Rotary Direct, through your club or Rotary's Contact Center

💎 Your Impact & Recognition

All donations:

- Earn Foundation Recognition **Points**
- Are matched 2:1 by the **Gates Foundation**

Members also receive:

- PolioPlus Society **Certificate**
- Gold & Red Lapel **Pin**

📄 How to Join

Complete a PPS **membership** (pledge) **form** and send it with **donation confirmation** to Elaine Richard at emmrichard55@gmail.com. Need a form, just email Elaine.

Whether you're a long-time supporter or new to the fight, every dollar helps reach every last child. With your pledge, you **UNITE FOR GOOD** and help secure a **polio-free future**.



Cluster Grants News

I am pleased to recognize 13 Rotary Clubs that have returned their Pledge for the 2025 District 7090 Ontario Cluster Fund. They are Rotary Clubs of :

Brantford Sunrise
Dundas Valley
Dunnville
Lincoln
Niagara Falls Canada
Niagara Falls Sunrise
Norfolk Sunrise
NOTL
Simcoe
St. Catharines
St. Catharines Lakeshore
St. Catharines South
Welland

This means that the Global Project selected in the meeting to be held this Fall, will have \$31,000 USDs for improving the lives of people somewhere on this planet. All this from only \$1,050 USD from each club.

It is not too late to have your club pledge for this effort. With almost \$1/2 million that this Cluster Fund has seen budgeted in the past years, you can contribute to the success this year. The Pledge Form to do so is attached. You joined Rotary to make a difference around the world. This is your opportunity to do so!

I have set the **Selection Meeting for Oct 20 2025**. With this in mind, I remind you that your proposal must be submitted a week prior to this meeting. All proposals must follow the requirements of the Cluster Grant summary. (see Addendum 2 of attached)

Please recognize that our theme for this year is "Unite for Good". Exactly what the District 7090 Ontario Cluster Fund does!

David Berry
Cluster Grant Canada Coordinator

2025-26 District 7090 Rotary Foundation Committee

Note: Many Committee members make great speakers at your club

District Foundation Chair (2025-28) Michael Harrington

ACTING DRFC-IPDG Dave Alexander

Past Rotary Foundation Chair - PDG Lisa Bishop

Fundraising Chair -IPDG David Alexander

Annual Fund - John Weismantel

Committee: Annie Holtby

Paul Harris Society - Paul Lehman

Endowment Fund - Wolfgang Lindemann

Polio Plus Chair - Elaine Richard/Frank Adamson

coordinator polio plus-Elaine Richard

Stewardship Chair - Paul Saskowksi

committee: Lezlie Murch

Sandi Chard

Grants Chair - Sue Foster

Subcommittee:

Club Grants Chair-Sue Foster

Global Grants Chair- Lezlie Murch District 7090

International Service Committee: Brad Wood

Global Vocational Training Team - Dan Smith

District Scholarships - Carol DeNysschen

Ontario Cluster Fund - Dave Berry

New York Cluster Fund-TBA

District Governor: Aaron Carlson

District Governor Elect: Joanne Serkeyn

Governor-Nominee: Paul Gibel

District Grants Review Committee:

John Boronkay, RC Orchard Park

Margaret Andrewes, RC Lincoln

Don Lawrence, RC Amherst

Jim Ellison, RC LeRoy

Cameron Johnston, RC Brantford Sunrise

Lezlie Murch, RC St. Catharines

Ken Schander, RC Niagara on the Lake

John Teibert, RC St. Catharines South

Glen Christenson -RC Brantford Sunrise

District Scholar Peace Subcommittee Chair Bob Munroe

Bold is Voting Members of Foundation Committee

Editor: sandichard@gmail.com