

# Rotary District 7090 Rotary Foundation Newsletter



December 2025



★★★★  
**CHARITY NAVIGATOR**  
Four Star Charity

**17 consecutive years**

Independent verification of  
stewardship and transparency

## What's Inside

Recognition • Peace Fellowships • Grants •  
Disaster Response • Donor Education



**Foundation Celebration  
Recognition Awards  
Thank you to the clubs  
and individuals**

**Page 7**

## Do you know someone who should apply?



**ROTARY PEACE  
FELLOWSHIP**

WORLD  
WIDE



Rotary  

**ROTARY PEACE  
FELLOWSHIPS**

Full funding for a master's degree  
or professional certificate in  
peace and conflict resolution

- Connect with a global network
- Gain experience in the field
- Learn peacebuilding skills

See page 4 for details

## December Matters:

**Your Rotary Foundation Giving at Work**  
Give Today → Invest → Grant Impact (Local & Global)  
(Annual Fund → DDF + World Fund → Projects)



Save The  
Dates  
page 14

Mark Your Calendars  
**UPCOMING EVENTS**



**December is Disease Prevention & Treatment Month  
Polio eradication remains Rotary's top global priority.**

# A FOUNDATION MOMENT

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

## WHAT KIND OF MEMORIAL AND TRIBUTE GIFTS ARE POSSIBLE?

You can honor a loved one in a meaningful way with a contribution to The Rotary Foundation that helps sustain our efforts around the world.

The easiest way is to start at [rotary.org/donate](http://rotary.org/donate) and select the option to make a donation in honor or in memory of someone. You can contribute to the Annual Fund-SHARE, the World Fund, the Endowment, PolioPlus, the Disaster Response Fund, a specific area of focus, or a global grant.

As the donor, you'll receive gift credit and a tax receipt (where applicable). The person you're honoring or their family can be notified of your gift by email, or you can choose to print a notification and deliver it yourself.

Consider making a gift to the Foundation today to honor someone you love.



## What is the advantage of an endowed gift to District 7090 and my club?

An endowed gift to Endowment-SHARE provides long-term, reliable funding for both district and global grants. Each year, a portion of the investment earnings returns to District 7090, while another portion supports the World Fund—ensuring that your contributions help sustain Rotary projects locally and around the world year after year. By supporting the Best of Friends Heritage Named Endowed Fund, donors also help honor the past, present, and future leaders of our district who exemplify Rotary service.

### Why Choose Endowment?

- Predictable funding
- Long-term district impact
- Honours Rotary leaders past & future

### How to Give

- Individuals can now donate online.
- Clubs must submit contributions by mail or by phone.
- When donating, select the named fund and use

**Gift ID E20602**

**Endowment-SHARE gifts helped fund district and global grants in 2025–26.**

**Let's continue to grow this fund—every dollar contributes to impact forever.**

## Deadlines for giving to The Rotary Foundation

**December 31 is the most important giving deadline of the year**

### What Counts for December 31?

Dates required for your gift to count for the 2025 calendar/tax year December 31, 2025

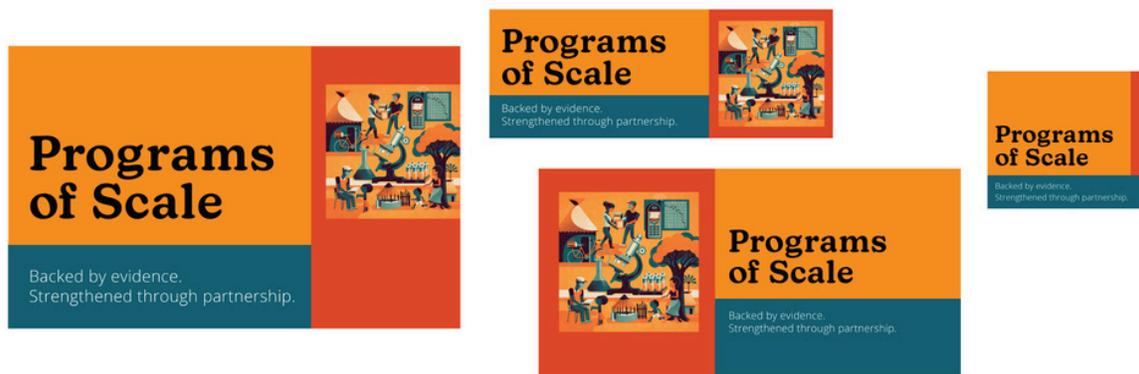
**Cheques:** must be postmarked (or mailed) on or before December 31, 2025.

**Credit-card or online donations:** must be authorized by midnight on December 31, 2025

**Securities or other non-cash gifts:** must be received by The Rotary Foundation on or before December 31, 2025 to count in 2025.



**Programs of Scale will not be open for 2027 applications**



An external review to help Rotary build on the success of the initiative is planned to take place from January to June 2026, with the final findings due in October 2026. You can still encourage clubs and districts to use global grants to test their project models, gather evidence about outcomes, and strengthen partnerships before the next award cycle

# The Next Great Peace-Builders Might Be Your Neighbours

Right now, in your community, there are future peace-builders waiting to be discovered.

They could be:

- A teacher passionate about conflict resolution
- A nonprofit leader bridging divides
- A young professional committed to social justice

They may not know about **Rotary Peace Fellowships**—but you can change that.

## Two Fully Funded Opportunities

### 1. Master's Degree Peace Fellowships

Valued at \$87,000+ USD, these fellowships are offered at:

- Duke University / University of North Carolina (USA)
- University of Bradford (UK)
- University of Queensland (Australia)
- Uppsala University (Sweden)
- International Christian University (Japan)

### 2. Professional Development Certificate Programs

Valued at \$25,000+ USD, these programs are offered at:

- Makerere University (Uganda)
- Bahçeşehir University (Turkey)



## Who Should Apply?

Ideal candidates have:

- An undergraduate degree with strong academic performance
- Relevant work or volunteer experience in peace, conflict resolution, development, human rights, or related fields
- A demonstrated commitment to peace and development
- A three-year gap between their last degree and the start of the fellowship

## How You Can Help: You don't need to know a candidate — just start the conversation.

We need your connections.

Please reach out to:

- Educators and school leaders
- Community organizers and NGO workers
- Faith and community leaders
- Local and international contacts across your personal and professional networks

Applications open **February 1** and the submission deadline is **May 15** for the **2027 academic year**.

For full details, visit: [rotary.org/peace-fellowships](https://rotary.org/peace-fellowships)

Local Contact

Interested individuals can contact:

Bob Munroe

District 7090 Peace Fellowship Chair

 [munroerobert@yahoo.ca](mailto:munroerobert@yahoo.ca)

Bob is happy to answer questions and guide candidates through the application process.



**PEACEBUILDING AND  
CONFLICT PREVENTION**



## What are Global Grants? and How do they differ from District Grants?

**Global Grants** fund large-scale international projects with sustainable, long-term outcomes in Rotary's areas of focus, requiring a minimum budget of \$30,000 and sponsorship from clubs in at least two countries. In contrast **District grants** support smaller short-term projects, with no minimum budget and are managed by the District

### **Global Grant Specifics:**

**Project Scale:** Large-scale, international projects

**Impact:** Sustainable, measurable outcomes with long-term impact

**Budget:** Minimum of \$30,000

**Administration:** Administered by the Rotary Foundation and sponsored by a host and an international club.

**Funding:** Can be funded by DDF (with matching funds from the Rotary Foundation)

**Focus:** Rotary's seven areas of focus

**Examples:** Large-scale health initiatives, educational programs, environmental, water & sanitation projects or International vocational training.

**Timing:** Project may take 2+ years to complete

**Qualifying:** at least two club members take the global grants management course found in the Rotary Learning Centre.

Read, agree and sign a Memorandum of Understanding where you agree to adhere to the Grant Terms and Conditions.

# DISTRICT GRANTS



**Grants Chair - Sue Foster**  
**Sub-committee - Club Grants Chair**  
[suefoz@gmail.com](mailto:suefoz@gmail.com)

**District Grants are used for flexibility in funding local & international short-term projects.**

They are beneficial for clubs because they energize members and encourage community collaboration! These grants are simpler to administer than global grants and can fund a wide range of activities, from small community projects to scholarships.

## **Benefits for clubs & communities**

- **Increased community impact:** Grants enable clubs to create meaningful change in their local communities or abroad by funding projects that address immediate needs.
- **Higher member engagement:** Planning and executing these projects can motivate members, foster a sense of ownership, and energize them to donate to the Foundation.
- **Development of new skills:** Club members can develop valuable skills in project planning, budgeting, and reporting by managing these grants.
- **Support for diverse projects:** District grants have no minimum budget and can be used for a variety of projects, such as providing food, supporting education, improving community infrastructure, and funding scholarships.
- **Partnership opportunities:** District grants encourage collaboration between Rotary clubs and other community organizations.

## **Key characteristics**

- **Short-term Focus:** projects are typically small-scale and completed within a Rotary year
- **Administrative flexibility:** Grants are managed by individual Rotary districts, allowing for flexibility in how funds are distributed.
- **Local & International:** funds support both local and international projects

# Foundation Celebration

Celebrating Rotary Generosity in Action



## Every Rotarian Every Year for 100% of members giving to the Annual Fund

Rotary Club of Amherst, Rotary Club of Clarence, Rotary Club of Flamborough AM, Rotary Club of Fonthill, Rotary Club of Hamburg Sunrise, Rotary Club of LeRoy, Rotary Club of Lewiston-NOTL, Rotary Club of St. Catharines Lakeshore, Rotary Club of Welland

**Is your club on track for a recognition banner this year?**



## Top 3 per capita giving Annual Fund

Niagara Falls-\$1,269avg  
Ancaster-\$333 avg  
Welland -\$299 avg  
per member avg

**Top 3 Giving Polio Plus  
Dundas Valley Sunrise  
Batavia  
Niagara On The Lake**



**Your generosity today shapes Rotary's impact tomorrow.  
Thank you for being part of the Foundation that makes it possible**

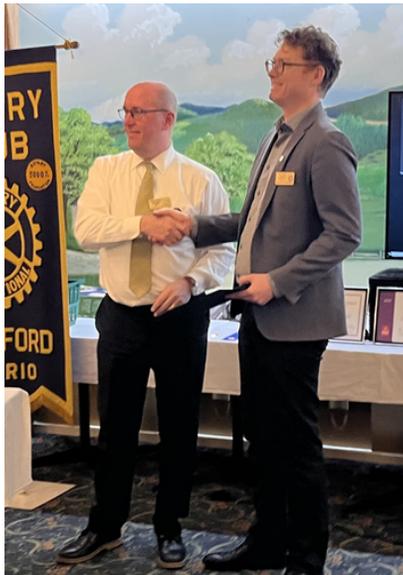
# Paul Harris Fellows

Clubs may submit photos for future newsletters.



Rotary Club of Waterdown recent Paul Harris Fellow evening

This year's Paul Harris Fellows are Cookie Butcher, David Chatt, Amanda Henning, and Dawn & Kyle Lambalzer from Rotary Club of Lockport



Rotary Club of Brantford recent Paul Harris Fellows Eric Sterne and Sherry Kerr were two of honourees



## Paul Harris Fellow

The Paul Harris Fellow recognition, established in 1957, is one of Rotary's most prestigious honors. Named after Rotary's founder, Paul Harris, it acknowledges individuals who contribute – or have contributions of US\$1,000 or more made in their name to The Rotary Foundation.

This distinction reflects a commitment to Rotary's ideals of service, goodwill, and peace. Many clubs present Paul Harris Fellow awards to recognize exceptional generosity, leadership, or community service.



the Rotary Club of Kenmore, NY and the Kenmore East Interact Club collaborated on the Purple Pinkie Project today at Edison Elementary School! Students learned about Polio and raised \$425 USD that will be matched by the Rotary Club of Kenmore meaning \$850 USD will be donated to the End Polio Now fund!



### Support the Cyclone Ditwah Response Fund

The Rotary Foundation has established the **Cyclone Ditwah Response Fund** to support disaster response grants in communities in Sri Lanka that have been devastated by recent flooding and landslides. The cyclone has killed hundreds of people and left many without safe shelter, clean water, and electricity. Rotary members across the region are already mobilizing to provide relief, and our leadership and support can help make their efforts possible.

The Cyclone Ditwah Response Fund will accept contributions — including District Designated Funds (DDF) — from now through 31 March 2026. Districts affected by the cyclone can apply for disaster response grants until 3 December 2026, or until all available funds have been distributed.

These grants may be used to provide essential relief items such as:

**Safe drinking water \*Food\*Medicine1\*Temporary shelter**

**Clothing and other basic necessities**

#### How you and your club can help

To support communities affected by Cyclone Ditwah, you and your members can:

Donate personally to the Cyclone Ditwah Response Fund

Fundraise through Raise for Rotary, engaging colleagues, friends, family, and community partners

After 4 December 2026, any unused funds in the Cyclone Ditwah Response Fund will be transferred to the Rotary Disaster Response Fund to support relief efforts for future disasters.

For questions about the Cyclone Ditwah Response Fund, contact:

[disaster.responsefund@rotary.org](mailto:disaster.responsefund@rotary.org)

# Recognition From an Endowment Point of View

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

Your generous contributions to The Rotary Foundation are essential to securing and growing Rotary programs throughout the world. Rotary recognizes donors to express gratitude for your commitment, offering individual recognition as well as naming opportunities that enable you to honor a friend or family member with a named or endowed gift.

Listed are recognition designations offered to individuals, all amounts are in USD.

### Major Donor

Major Donors are individuals or couples whose combined giving has reached \$10,000 regardless of the gift designation. This recognition level can be achieved only through personal contributions and not through recognition points. Major Donors may choose to receive a crystal recognition piece and pin(s) or pendant(s) commemorating the gift at each new recognition level.



Level Range	
1	\$10,000 to \$24,999
2	\$25,000 to \$49,999
3	\$50,000 to \$99,999
4	\$100,000 to \$249,999



### Arch Klumph Society

The Arch Klumph Society recognizes individuals or couples whose giving has reached \$250,000, regardless of gift designation. This recognition level can be achieved only through personal contributions and not through recognition points. Biographies, portraits, and ceremony videos of Arch Klumph Society members are featured in the Arch Klumph Gallery on the 17th floor of Rotary International World Headquarters and in Arch Klumph Society kiosks at several regional offices. Members also receive lapel pins and pendants, as well as invitations to the society's exclusive events, held worldwide. Special induction and elevation ceremonies are offered to members. Arch Klumph Society members are listed in the Major Donor, Arch Klumph Society, and Bequest Society Report.

Trustees Circle — \$250,000 to \$499,999

Chair's Circle — \$500,000 to \$999,999

Foundation Circle — \$1 million to \$2,499,999

Platinum Trustees Circle — \$2.5 million to \$4,999,999

Platinum Chair's Circle — \$5 million to \$9,999,999

Platinum Foundation Circle — \$10 million and above

### Benefactor

A Benefactor is an individual who notifies The Rotary Foundation of a commitment for future gifts to the Endowment of \$1,000 or more or who makes an outright gift of \$1,000 or more to the Endowment. Benefactors receive a certificate and insignia to be worn with a Rotary or Paul Harris Fellow pin.

### Bequest Society

Individuals or couples who notify The Rotary Foundation of their commitment to include future gifts of \$10,000 or more to the Foundation in their estate plans are invited to join the Bequest Society. Each level of giving includes the benefits of the preceding levels:

\$10,000 - A Bequest Society pin and an exclusive art piece suitable for framing

\$25,000 - A Rotary's Promise crystal and a named endowed fund

\$50,000 - Separate named endowed funds

\$100,000 - A customized Rotary's Promise crystal

\$250,000 - Posthumous Arch Klumph Society recognition

\$500,000 - Special seating and registration benefits at the Rotary International Convention

### Legacy Society

Individuals or couples who document future gifts to the Endowment of \$1 million or more are invited to join the Legacy Society. These donors are listed in Rotary's annual report and are invited to exclusive Rotary International and Foundation events. Legacy Society members also receive special tokens of appreciation and all the benefits provided to Bequest Society members.

**When you make a bequest in your estate plan you must notify The Rotary Foundation to make sure you receive your recognition.**



**District DDF available: \$15,000 + 80% Match by The Rotary Foundation**

Your District 7090 Vocational Training Team Committee is available to assist you in a global grant for a VTT. Our district for qualified teams will offer \$15000 in District Designated Funds. That will be matched 80% by Rotary Foundation for a total of \$27000.

A global grant must be minimum of \$30000. A Minimum of \$3000 is for the team to fundraise by individuals or clubs.

Your club or group of club’s proposal should consider the following:

- The area of focus for the VTT
- Whether an in-bound or out-bound VTT
- Your responsibility for accommodation and local travel
- The itinerary
- The duration of the visit, 2-3 weeks

The team composition. One Rotarian team leader with expertise in the area of focus, international experience, and general Rotary knowledge. A minimum of three team members – Rotarians and non-Rotarians - with at least two years of professional experience in the designated area of focus  
 Timely identification and commitment of a partner Rotary District is required.

**EXAMPLE**

A good example of a Rotary Global Grant supporting a vocational group is a project to provide specialized professional training for social workers supporting street children in São Paulo, Brazil. This project focused on building the capacity of local professionals to address specific, urgent community needs.

- **Sustainability:** The training built the capacity of the local NGO's permanent staff, ensuring the enhanced skills would continue to benefit the community long after the grant funds were utilized.
- **Alignment with Rotary's Focus:** The project aligned with Rotary's area of focus on Basic Education and Literacy or Economic and Community Development by improving professional skills and supporting vulnerable populations.

Ask us for more information on an idea you have

# District International Service Chair

## Thinking Bigger? We Can Help

Project scoping

Finding international partners

Connecting clubs to technical advisors

### District Support You May Not Know About

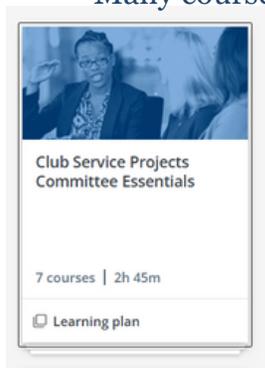
The DISC role serves as a Rotary Consulting Firm to support International Service Projects in all phases. It doesn't matter if the project is funded by a Global Grant, District Grant, or by non-grant funding by private donation.

The DISC support projects by connecting them with the district's own District Resource Network of skilled practitioners. Our consulting resources outside the district include Area of Focus managers, Regional Grant Officers, The Cadre of Technical Advisors, Action Groups, Fellowship Groups, the InterCountry Committees (ICC), and the list goes on.

District 7090 International Service Chair is Brad Wood-Rotary Club of Welland



Many courses to help on your journey here at a couple to get your started  
Many courses to help on your journey here at a couple to get your started



### Learning plan description

Learn about your role as a member of a Rotary or Rotaract club's service projects committee. This learning plan covers how to talk with members about service opportunities, how to plan and promote club projects, and how to assess and manage the risks of a project.

Updated July 2025



### Learning plan description

Learn from experts how to increase the impact of your local and international service projects by implementing successful activities on a larger scale and designing programs that achieve results.

## Niagara Falls Illuminated in Rotary colours for World Polio Day ●

● District 7090 continues to demonstrate leadership in Rotary's global effort to End Polio, creating meaningful awareness through initiatives such as annual World Polio Day illuminations thanks to the efforts of Patricia Castiglia of the Rotary Club of Hamburg.

On October 27, District members Dr. June Mergl and John Beyer (Rotary Club of Niagara Falls), Graham Repei (St. Catharines South), and Elaine Richard (St. Catharines Lakeshore) toured the Illumination Tower in Niagara Falls, Ontario. They learned about the century old history of the Niagara Falls Illumination Board—the first official 'searchlights' were lit during the Festival of Lights on June 5, 1925. The Board continues to play a major role in the annual Winter Festival of Lights.

Along with the history came the hands on experience of seeing the equipment up close—and lighting the Falls in Rotary's colours of blue and yellow, and purple as a powerful symbol of Rotary's commitment to a polio-free world.

Thank you to June, John, and the Rotary Club of Niagara Falls for your outstanding support of The Rotary Foundation and the Annual Dr. Ron Mergl Participate for Polio. Our fundraiser (<https://raise.rotary.org/Elaine-Richard/memorial822>) has now surpassed \$10,000 in donations! And the impact is further amplified by the Gates Foundation's 2 to 1 match.

An important reminder—as we move closer to eradicating polio, continued support from District 7090's clubs and members remains essential to finishing the job. ●



purple, the colour used to mark the pinky finger of children who received their polio vaccination



June checking the World Series score and John sporting a new look



John, June, Elaine and Graham surrounded by lights



a beautiful view of Niagara Falls from the Illumination Tower



## KEY EVENTS

- Donations for year end to Rotary Foundation by Dec 31, 2025
- **December 2025:** Disease Prevention and Treatment Month
- District Grant Applications Open
- January 27 -Open house Hours with special guest Edina from The Rotary Foundation special Topic Paul Harris Society and more register today



**Edina Mehovic**  
 Annual Giving Officer Zone 29  
[Edina.Mehovic@rotary.org](mailto:Edina.Mehovic@rotary.org)  
 Tel 847.425.5612

## LOOKING AHEAD

- Feb 1-Peace Fellow Applications Open
- **February 2026:** Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month
- **Feb Peace Fellowship applications open**
- **March 2026:** Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Month
- **April 2026:** Environment Month
- May 15 Peace Fellow applications close

Check out our District 7090  
Foundation Plug and Play

## ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

- **Goals set for Foundation not too late!!**
- **June 10- deadline for global scholarship applications to RI for September 2026 starting or 3 months prior to courses**
- **qualify for Global Grants-year round**
- **June 30 Contributions to Foundation for year 2025-26 must be postmarked by June 30, and arrive by July 5**
- **Global Grants applications year round**

[www.rotary7090.org](http://www.rotary7090.org)

see events

**2025-26 District 7090 Rotary Foundation Committee**

**Note: Many Committee members make great speakers at your club**

**Interested in serving? Many committee roles provide leadership development and Foundation insight Please email DRFC -David Alexander  
District Foundation**

**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 Chairs - Elaine Richard/Frank Adamson**

Coordinator PolioPlus Society - Elaine Richard

**Stewardship Chair - Paul Saskowski**

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**

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