

Rotary District 7090

Rotary Foundation Newsletter



A New Year of Rotary Impact Made Possible Through The Rotary Foundation

January 2026

What's Inside

Recognition • Peace Fellowships • Grants •
Dsates Polio • Donor Education

Special Open House

learn how Paul Harris Society giving directly fuels
District and Global Grants.
Rotary Foundation
Annual senior Giving Officer
All Welcome



Edina Mehovic
Annual Giving Officer Zone 2

The Rotary Foundation turns generosity into sustainable, life-changing impact

POLIO IN NUMBERS

Wild Poliovirus in 2025 (2024)*

Global Total: 39 (93)

Thank You, Rotarians

We are closer than ever to achieving our
Foundation goals.

See how your support is making a difference
— page 12

Peace Fellow
application
opens Feb 1
See page 5

You may already know the
next Rotary Peace Fellow



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 IS OUR GRANT MODEL DESIGNED TO DO?

Our grant model is designed to produce sustainable results that align with The Rotary Foundation's priorities and the areas of focus, engage members, and deepen their connection to Rotary. This means we:

- Focus our service efforts where they'll have the greatest impact by addressing genuine needs that are relevant to communities
 - Offer program options to help people achieve both local and global goals
 - Simplify Foundation processes to help more people take part
 - Give people more decision-making power at the club and district levels to increase their commitment
 - Communicate clearly about our work to enhance Rotary's public image
- The Rotary Foundation is continuing to make a difference in our world!



Foundation Open House-Special Guest Edina Mehovic
ZOOM
Jan. 27, 2026
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

All are Welcome to learn more about
The Rotary Foundation from
Annual Fund Senior Advisor

hosted by
Paul Harris Society - Paul Lehman
Assistant Zone 28 Foundation Coordinator-Sandi Chard



Book a Speaker

We have many speakers available to talk on
The Rotary Foundation at your club meetings
learn about
Global Grants, District Grants, End Polio
The Endowment Fund, Scholarships,
Disaster Relief Fund,
Every Rotarian Every Year

Bring Foundation impact stories directly to your club meeting

Some Speakers are
Dave Alexander-DRFC
Sandi Chard-Zone 28 Foundation Coordinator
Sue Foster-Grants
Lisa Bishop-Polio Zone Coordinator
Wolfgang Lindemann-Endowments
see list of committee members for more



Rotary District 7090
Foundation Scholarships

3-SCHOLARSHIPS

AVAILABLE

Apply thru your local Rotary Club

This year there are three scholarships to give deserving high school
graduating students.

Three - \$1200.00 USD awards



**Full program details will be available on the website shortly.
Interested in helping select the recipients? Contact Carol to learn more**

**SUBMIT YOUR
REGISTRATION
TO
YOUR LOCAL ROTARY CLUB**

Carol DeNysschen
Rotary District 7090
District Scholarships Chair
Email: scholarships@d7090.org

DISTRICT GRANTS



Grants Chair - Sue Foster
Sub-committee - Club Grants Chair
suefoz@gmail.com

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

District Grants empower clubs to respond quickly to real community needs

District Grants are beneficial for clubs because they energize members and encourage community collaboration!

ITS THAT TIME OF YEAR TO START THINKING HOW YOUR CLUB CAN USE DISTRICT DESIGNATED FUNDS TO ENHANCE PROJECTS YOUR CLUB WOULD LIKE TO COMPLETE THIS COMING YEAR!

Helpful Hints for a Successful District Grant Project

- While determining budgets ask your board and/or committees to include District Grant funds as part of your club's yearly budget
- Reach out to organizations in your community and determine a need that aligns with your club's vision & mission
- With a project chosen by your club, determine a project "**champion**" to take the lead and work with other club members and the District 7090 grants team to submit a Grant Request
- **ENSURE** your club has completed the qualification steps and submitted the **District Grant MOU**
- Once your club is qualified you will be given access to the grants module

FIRST STEPS

- Log Into District 7090 website **MEMBER AREA**
- in **Blue menu** click on **Grants** and then on **SUBMIT** a Grant Request
- Enter the key information requested **Name, Project Year, Description and Estimated Budget**
- once submitted the project will be reviewed by the District Grant Team, upon preliminary approval an identifier will be assigned then additional information will be requested as your project team has it available.



Planned Giving

Clubs may submit photos for future newsletters.



Lockport Rotarian, Paul McAfee, was recognized as a Rotary Major Donor – Level 1 for the Rotary Foundation, at a recently club meeting. This level of giving (\$10,000 or more to the Rotary Foundation over time) is a powerful expression of trust in Rotary and confidence in the lasting impact of service. Paul's generosity will help to advance Rotary's Areas of Focus – including polio eradication, clean water and sanitation, maternal and child health, education, and economic development

When you plan a gift to Rotary through your estate or financial plans, you will continue a 100-year tradition of uniting leaders from all continents, cultures and industries for the common good. It is easier than you might think

Recognition today and planning for tomorrow ensure Rotary's impact continues for generations



Have you heard?

You can do a Free Will
thanks to Rotary
rotary.planmygift.org/freewill

Visit the Platform
Answer Questions:
Create Documents:
Support Causes: You can specify gifts to The Rotary
Foundation or other charities.
Finalize

A New Year, New Voices for Peace

District 7090 Rotarians play a critical role in identifying and sponsoring future Peace Fellows

As we begin a new year, opportunities to build peace often start closer to home than we realize. Within our communities are individuals with the passion, skills, and commitment to become the next generation of global peace leaders.. They may be

- A nonprofit or community leader working to bridge divides
- An educator dedicated to conflict resolution
- A young professional driven by equity, justice, and service

Many potential candidates have never heard of the Rotary Peace Fellowship — and that's where Rotarians can make a difference

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 clear commitment to peace and community development
- A minimum three-year gap between their most recent degree and the start of the fellowship

How Rotarians Can Help

our networks matter. We encourage you to share this opportunity with

- 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

Interested individuals can contact: Bob Munroe

District 7090 Peace Fellowship Chair

✉ munroerobert@yahoo.ca

GOALS AND PLANS FOR 2025-26:

Has your club set your goals and are you carrying out your plans to reach those goals that you put into Rotary Club Central for 2025-26? Remember the requirements for the Presidential Citation every year.

Deadline in June 30, 2026.

Rotary Foundation Checklist – 2025–26

Simple Ways Our Members and Club Can Make an Impact

Supporting The Rotary Foundation is one of the most meaningful ways we create lasting change—locally and around the world.

As we access our Rotary year, here are some practical ways both individual members and our club can strengthen our impact.

What You Can Do as an Individual

- Give through Rotary Direct to make supporting The Rotary Foundation easy and consistent.
- Join the Rotary PolioPlus Society by contributing at least \$100 USD annually toward polio eradication until the job is done.
- Become a Paul Harris Society member by giving \$1,000 USD annually to the Annual Fund.
- Participate in Rotary donor recognition programs at a level that works for you—every gift matters, and there is a giving level for every budget.



What Our Club Can Do Together

- Set a minimum Annual Fund goal of \$100 USD per member—and stretch higher if possible.
- Establish a club goal of at least \$1,500 USD for End Polio Now, supported by a fundraiser during the year.
- Encourage and celebrate Paul Harris Society membership growth through recognition events.
- Host a club social or special fundraiser in support of The Rotary Foundation, possibly themed around one of Rotary's Areas of Focus.
- Consider additional opportunities, such as one-time or annual gifts from a club charitable foundation, where applicable.

Together, our individual commitments and collective efforts ensure Rotary can continue doing good in the world—today and for generations to come.

Was Your 2026 Resolution to Join Rotary Direct?

Powering Good with Rotary Direct

The easiest and most effective way to strengthen our mission is by enrolling in Rotary Direct, our recurring giving program. By setting up a reliable, monthly contribution, you provide the consistent funding stream that allows the Foundation to plan, invest, and scale up our most critical programs.

You have the power to choose exactly where your dollars go:

PolioPlus Fund: Help us finish the job and eradicate polio forever.

Annual Fund: Support global grants and District Designated Funds (DDF) for local and international projects right now.

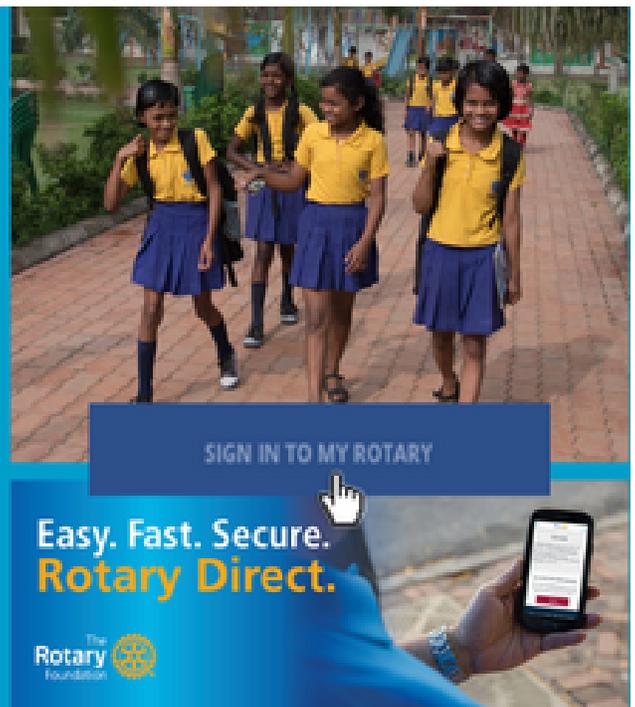
Endowment Fund: Grow our future; this fund's earnings ensure Rotary remains strong and impactful for generations to come.

Your commitment, no matter the size, ensures we continue improving lives every second of every day. Please take a moment this month to sign up for Rotary Direct and invest in a better future for all.

Rotary Direct | My Rotary

ROTARY DIRECT

- It's easy, fast, and secure.
- You can adjust or cancel your recurring gifts anytime through My Rotary.
- Visit my.rotary.org/rotary-direct to learn more or enroll.



Many clubs and Rotarians in District 7090 already use Rotary Direct to meet their Foundation goals.

District International Service Chair

Your next great project may already exist — you don't have to start from scratch

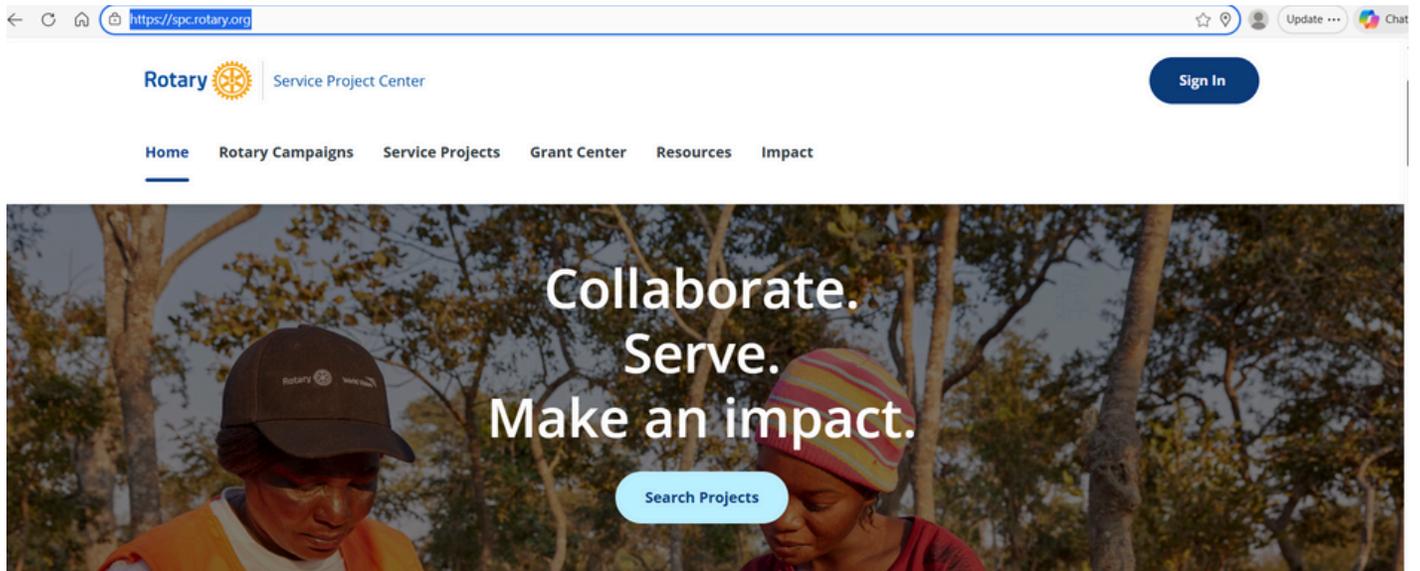
Thinking Bigger? We Can Help

Project scoping

Finding international partners

Connecting clubs to technical advisors

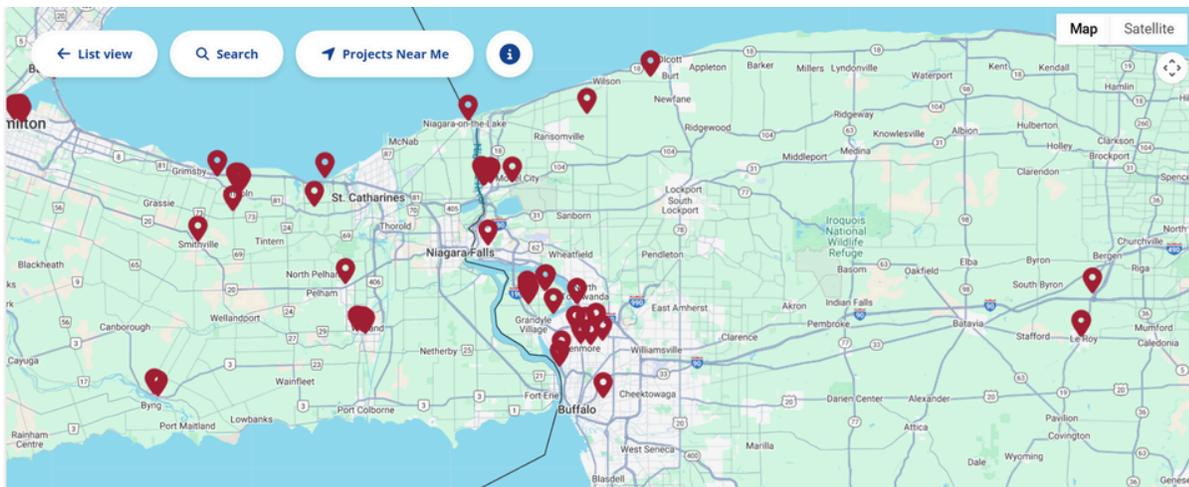
District Support You May Not Know About



Looking for inspiration for service projects—locally or around the world?

The Rotary Service Project Center is an excellent place to get started. It highlights projects that Rotarians have already completed or are currently working on and provides ideas your club can adapt or showcase. It is also a great way to share the impactful projects your club has undertaken and inspire others across Rotary.

You don't need to start from scratch — support is already in place



PROJECT PLANNING RESOURCES

Use these resources to find solutions to questions at various steps of the process to help you plan a successful project, find support for your efforts, promote your work, and evaluate its impact.



Click on each resource to learn more.

" I'm looking for international service projects undertaken by other clubs in my district for my club to join to make a greater impact.

District International Service Committee
inspires clubs to become more involved in international service, connects them to local mentors who use their subject-matter expertise to help develop projects with greater impact and sustainability, and helps identify potential international project partners.

" I want to find local experts to help my club write grants as well as plan, design, implement, monitor, and evaluate our project.

Rotary Community Corps (RCC)
is a team of non-Rotarian men and women who work in partnership with Rotary clubs to improve their communities. By bringing community input and involvement in projects, RCCs enhance Rotary's impact and reach.

" Our club wants to ensure that our project is sustainable and is maintained and monitored by a community group.

District Resource Network
is coordinated by the District International Service Committee and includes local subject matter experts with skills and experience to help clubs strengthen projects, whether funded by The Rotary Foundation or another source.

" I want to involve local residents in planning, designing, implementing, and overseeing a project.

Rotary Action Groups
are international, Rotary-affiliated groups, whose members have subject-matter expertise in a particular service area. They offer technical assistance and best practices to clubs and districts in planning and implementing effective projects, and help identify partners and funding resources.

" I want help from experts in:

- Project planning
- Community assessments
- Project design
- Finding partners
- Project funding
- Supporting an international program



" I am looking to empower my community and get more involved with local service projects.

District Community Service Committee
motivates clubs and helps them plan and implement impactful local service projects, often in partnership with RCCs and in coordination with youth service committees overseeing Interact, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, and New Generations Service Exchanges.

“ I’m looking for examples of international service projects undertaken by other clubs in my district to inspire mine.

Service Project Center

features both ongoing and completed service projects that can help clubs find international partners and inspire the global Rotary community with project ideas that members can replicate locally.

“ I have questions about global grant eligibility and project design.

“ I need help with the global grant application process.

TRF Cadre of Technical Advisers

are Rotarians with professional expertise in our areas of focus. They have experience designing, evaluating, and monitoring projects funded by The Rotary Foundation and understand Foundation policies and global grants.

“ I want to seek Foundation grant funding for my project. I need help with:

- Project planning
- Community assessment
- Project design
- Monitoring and evaluation

Rotary Grants Staff

help clubs and districts throughout the grant process. They can answer questions about global grant eligibility and project design.

“ I want to learn more about Rotary Foundation grants.

District Rotary Foundation Committee

educates and inspires clubs to participate in Rotary Foundation grant and fundraising activities in the district, assists clubs with the grant process, helps determine if activities are eligible for grant funding, and oversees distribution of District Designated Funds.

“ I’m seeking District Designated Funds to support my project.



“ I’m looking for international events that will let me explore the local community and find Rotary and Rotaract projects to support as an international partner.

Project Fairs

facilitate prospective international project partners by giving international visitors a chance to learn about a local community’s needs and develop relationships with clubs in regions where the fairs are hosted.



Polio Update: Progress Continues — The Finish Line Is in Sight

Rotary’s decades-long commitment to polio eradication continues to make a measurable difference, and the most recent global data reminds us both how far we have come and why finishing the job remains critical.

Polio in Numbers (as of January 6, 2026)

Wild Poliovirus cases in 2025: 39 globally

(Compared to 93 cases at the same time in 2024)

Circulating Variant (Vaccine-Derived) Poliovirus cases in 2025: 202 globally

(Compared to 255 cases at the same time in 2024)

These numbers show encouraging progress, particularly in the continued decline of wild poliovirus, which now remains endemic in only a small number of countries. At the same time, vaccine-derived cases remind us that **strong immunization systems must be maintained everywhere until eradication is complete.**

Why Rotary’s Work Still Matters

Polio eradication is not just about eliminating a disease, it is about:

Protecting future generations from lifelong paralysis

Strengthening health systems worldwide

Ensuring that hard-won gains are not reversed

Until polio is eradicated everywhere, children everywhere remain at risk.

How Rotarians Can Help Finish the Job

Support End Polio Now through individual or club giving

Join or promote the PolioPlus Society with an annual commitment of \$100 USD

Share Rotary’s polio story to remind communities that eradication is within reach

Thanks to Rotary members, partners, and donors around the world, polio cases are at historic lows. With continued commitment, this can be the generation that ends polio: **forever.**



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

To join please see our webpage
for more details



KEY EVENTS

- 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**
- District Scholarship look for information in February newsletter and online



Edina Mehovic
 Annual Giving Officer Zone 29
Edina.Mehovic@rotary.org
 Tel 847.425.5612

LOOKING AHEAD

- **February 2026:** Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month
- **Feb 1 Peace Fellowship applications open**
- **March 2026:** Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Month
- March 12-International Service Meeting 5:30-7:00 register online
- **April 17-District scholarship application due**
- **April 2026:** Environment Month
- May 15 Peace Fellow applications close

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

see events

2025-26 District 7090 Rotary Foundation Committee

Note: Many Committee members make great speakers at your club

District Foundation

DRFC-IPDG Dave Alexander 2025-2026

DRFC Aaron Carlson 2026-2029

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: Michel Harrington

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: Sandi Chard sandichard@gmail.com