

Rotary District 7090 Rotary Foundation Newsletter



March 2026



Your Rotary Foundation dollars are changing lives across District 7090 and around the world. Across District 7090, Rotarians are transforming generosity into real impact, from feeding families in Brantford to funding life-changing global grants.

In this issue, discover how Rotary Foundation giving returns to our communities, how clubs can access District Grants, and how you can be part of projects that truly change lives.



Polio Update Page 11

Inside This Issue

- ✓ How Rotary Foundation dollars return to our district
- ✓ Tips for successful District Grant projects
- ✓ Paul Harris Fellow: Rotary's most meaningful recognition
- ✓ Scholarships for students across District 7090
- ✓ Upcoming Foundation events and opportunities

Foundation Quick Tip

Rotary Direct

Did you know you can support The Rotary Foundation with an automatic monthly gift through Rotary Direct? Even small contributions make a lasting impact over time.



Mar. 24, 2026 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Foundation Power Hour: Tools to Achieve

Your 2025-26 Goals

Save The Dates
page 13



Turning Generosity Into Global Impact

Every Rotary Foundation contribution begins with a simple act of generosity. A Rotarian gives \$100. A club contributes to the Annual Fund.

Three years later, those same funds return to District 7090 to support projects that change lives locally and around the world.

In the 2024-25 Rotary year, Rotarians and friends of Rotary contributed \$569.6 million to The Rotary Foundation.

Rotary Foundation Impact in the Last Rotary Year

These gifts are already making a remarkable difference:

- \$331.6 million directed to program awards and operations
 - 1,423 Global Grants approved worldwide
- 468 District Grants supporting local community projects
- \$151 million invested in PolioPlus to end polio forever

What makes The Rotary Foundation truly unique is the way it transforms individual generosity into global impact. Through a carefully designed funding model, contributions to the Annual Fund return to districts in the form of District Designated Funds (DDF). These funds allow districts like ours to support both local community projects and international humanitarian efforts.

Every dollar given represents hope, hope for communities gaining access to clean water, children receiving an education, families receiving medical care, and entire countries moving closer to a polio-free future. The Rotary Foundation continues to be recognized as one of the most respected and effective charitable foundations in the world, with approximately 87% of spending directed toward programs and grants.

As Rotarians, **we should be proud of what our Foundation accomplishes every day.** When we give to The Rotary Foundation, we are investing in a better future.

As we continue our work across District 7090, let us remember that every contribution, at every level, strengthens a global network of People of Action committed to Doing Good in the World. Together, our impact is measurable. And together, it is transformational.

Together, our contributions change lives

Rotary Foundation: Myth vs Reality

MYTH

REALITY

	Part of your Annual Fund gift returns to District 7090 in three years as
My donation just goes somewhere internationally.	District Designated Funds (DDF) supporting local and global projects.
Rotary is a small charity.	Rotarians and friends contributed \$569.6 million to The Rotary Foundation in 2024–25.
My individual donation doesn't make a difference.	Combined gifts fund District Grants, Global Grants, scholarships, and humanitarian projects worldwide.
Polio is already gone.	Polio cases have been reduced by 99.9% , but eradication is not finished yet.
Most charity dollars go to administration.	About 87% of Rotary Foundation spending goes directly to programs and grants.

Follow Your Rotary Foundation Dollar

How one contribution becomes local and global impact

When you give to the Annual Fund today, part of that gift returns to District 7090 in three years to fund District Grants and Global Grants

<p>1 Rotarian Donates Contribution to the Annual Share Fund</p>
<p>2 Funds Invested The Rotary Foundation invests the funds for 3 years</p>
<p>3 Funds Distributed After the three ■ year cycle</p>

<p>47.5% World Fund Supports Global Grants and international humanitarian projects</p>	<p>47.5% District Designated Funds (DDF) Returns to District 7090 to support grants and projects</p>	<p>5% Administration Covers Rotary Foundation operating costs</p>
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Rotary Impact
 District Grants • Global Grants • Scholarships • Community Projects



Mar. 24, 2026 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m

Foundation Power Hour: Tools to Achieve Your 2025–26 Goals

IT'S EASY TO MAKE CLUB & INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

SESSION CHAIR: PDG LISA BISHOP

For Club Rotary Foundation Chairs, Presidents & President-Elect, and all interested Rotarians

This is a forum for sharing ideas, and hearing about resources and hands on support to assist you achieve your 2025/26 Rotary Foundation Club Goals

-you will hear about the the many ways Members and Clubs can contribute (individual & multi-donor, online, mail & more)

-quick & easy fundraisers, both in-person & online,

- online Fundraising Platform that issues charitable contribution receipts "Raise for Rotary"

-how to check on your Club Contributions

Networking & fun engagement

For more information, contact: PDG Lisa Bishop

delhipeople@sympatico.ca

register online today on district event page

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.

Thinking Bigger: How Global Grants Change Communities

Consult with local experts early in the planning process to build a strong project plan and global grant application. Your application needs to clearly describe how your project, scholarship, or vocational training team:

Responds to real community needs

Aligns with one of Rotary's areas of focus

Actively involves Rotary members and community members

Meets the eligibility requirements in the grant terms and conditions

Includes measurable goals

Will be sustainable and successful long after the global grant funds have been spent

If you need help, contact your district international service chair. The district resource network is made up of members with expertise in project planning, the areas of focus, and Rotary Foundation grants.

WHAT IS A GLOBAL GRANT FOR VOCATIONAL TRAINING?

Vocational training teams are groups of professionals who travel to another country, either to learn more about their profession or to teach local professionals more about it.

The Rotary Foundation funds some vocational training teams in our areas of focus through global grants. This training is often carried out in conjunction with a humanitarian project.

A team should include at least three people. The team leader needs to be a Rotary member, while the other participants can be members or nonmembers who have experience in the area of focus.

Rotary previously had a program called Group Study Exchange, which promoted international understanding and offered person-to-person opportunities for participants to learn how their vocation was practiced in other countries. It was phased out when we updated our grant model and placed this activity within global grants.

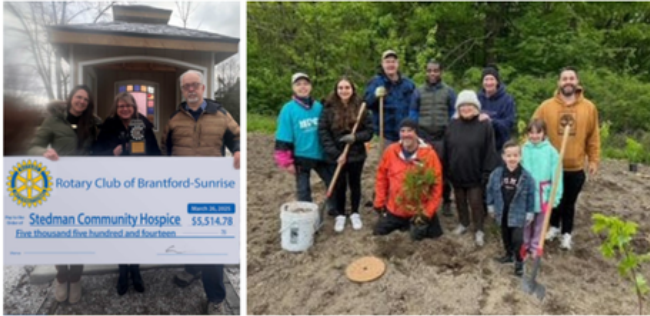
Think about whether you could join a vocational training team, or know a non-member who could participate.

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 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.

Supporting Families in Need Through a Rotary District Grant

One of the most meaningful ways Rotary clubs can make an impact in their communities is through District Grants, which help clubs partner with local organizations to address important community needs.

This year, the **Rotary Club of Olean** successfully applied for a second District 7090 grant, allowing the club to support **Genesis House of Olean**, the only family shelter in Cattaraugus County.

Through this partnership, the grant funded the installation of a new bathtub and shower in one of the shelter's family apartments, improving living conditions for the families who rely on Genesis House during difficult times.

Projects like this demonstrate how Rotary District Grants help clubs turn local partnerships into real improvements that support families and strengthen communities. **Thank you Rotary Club of Olean for making an impact in your community**



Rotary Helps Keep the Kitchen Running

For over 40 years, The Blessing Center has been serving meals to individuals facing hardship in the Brantford community. What began as a few meals each week has grown into a seven-day-a-week operation, supporting those experiencing homelessness and food insecurity.

With the help of the **Rotary Club of Brantford–Sunrise** and a **District Grant**, a new commercial oven has been installed to help keep those meals coming. Sometimes a single piece of equipment can make a huge difference, helping volunteers prepare thousands of meals and ensuring no one in the community goes hungry. Another great project!





Rotary Club President Grant Checklist

Club Qualification & Stewardship

- Attend Grant Management Seminar (or designate two club members)
- Ensure Global Grant online qualification is completed
- Review and sign Club Qualification Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- Review the Club Stewardship Planning Guide
- Confirm any district qualification requirements are completed

Global Grants Oversight

- Monitor club grants in Rotary Grant Center
- Review grants your club sponsors or contributes to
- Authorize legal agreements, progress reports, and final reports
- Support Cadre of Technical Advisers visits if applicable
- Work with District International Service Chair (DISC) and project leaders

District Grants

- Support club members submitting District Grant applications
- Ensure projects are carried out as approved
- Confirm reports are submitted on time

Key Role of the Club President

Provide leadership, oversight, and stewardship to ensure Rotary grants are managed responsibly and create lasting community impact.



Know a student who would benefit?

Encourage your club to promote Rotary scholarships in your local high schools.



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



REQUIREMENTS:

1. Applicant must be within the boundaries of District 7090 at application and in final year of high school education with a commitment for full time, post-secondary (college, university, community college) education.
2. A resume of community service and/or volunteer activities completed, plus a 100-word paragraph about the impact these experiences have had on you.
3. An essay of 750 words describing: why you chose your career/education path, and what community service/volunteer activities you plan to participate in.
4. Optional: letter of reference from any community member (not a family member)

please see your local Rotary Club for full details



Applications Now Open

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

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

How does the Rotary Peace Fellowship determine relevant experience?

The Rotary Foundation welcomes eligible candidates from all backgrounds. We are looking to invest in early-career

candidates for the master's degree program with at least three years of full-time relevant experience, and mid-career candidates for the certificate program with at least five years of full-time relevant experience.



Candidates for the Rotary Peace Fellowship must have relevant professional experience in peacebuilding and/or community or international development prior to application, as well as potential for future growth and impact resulting from their participation in the fellowship. Relevant experience includes professional work, as well as impactful volunteer experience, that involves the leading, planning, implementation, or evaluation of peacebuilding or development initiatives in the following categories:

1. **Government, official diplomacy, or policymaking** as part of a local, national, or international agency or institution.
2. **Non-governmental organizations** that contribute to the analysis, prevention, management, resolution, or recovery from conflict, or that engage in work related to humanitarian assistance or development.
3. **Economic development**, or peacebuilding through the expansion of economic opportunity for underserved populations.
4. **Private citizen diplomacy**, such as leadership of cultural or vocational exchange programs, or leadership through volunteer organizations on causes related to peace and development.
5. **Research and education** initiatives through roles at think tanks, in academia, leading train-the-trainer programs, or as an educator where teaching material primarily covers global or cross-cultural studies, peace studies (including human rights, mediation, negotiation, or dialogue), or conflict analysis/resolution. Primary or secondary teacher and college instructor or professor positions, including administration roles, must have specific association to peace and development topics or initiatives.
6. **Advocacy and activism** on behalf of causes related to peace and development, including legal professionals specializing in related areas such as human rights or the representation of vulnerable individuals or groups.
7. **Leadership in a religious congregation** or organization emphasizing pacifism, sanctuary, nonviolence, or peacebuilding through interfaith dialogue and tolerance.
8. **Media and the arts**, in roles that contribute to peace through the research and spread of reliable information, encouragement of positive social change, and shaping public opinion towards peaceful outcomes.
9. **Law enforcement or military leadership** positions specifically related to peacekeeping, building community partnerships, and improving community interactions.
10. **Public health roles** related to community development that prevent the spread of disease and improve health outcome and access for underserved populations or communities in crisis. Healthcare professionals, including lab technicians, nurses, and doctors, must demonstrate specific association with peace and development initiatives.

Peacebuilding is an evolving field; a candidate with innovative or context-specific experience that does not relate to a category listed above may include it in their application, and Rotary Peace Centers staff will evaluate its relevancy to the fellowship's goals on a case-by case basis. For example, candidates in professions such as engineering, urban planning, information technology, or fund development should demonstrate that their work has a direct connection to identifiable development outcomes; positions in these fields are generally not considered to be relevant experience, even if the mission of the candidate's employer is connected to peacebuilding, development, or humanitarian assistance. Administrative positions such as office management, customer service, and human resources, or restaurant work, retail sales, and security guard roles are generally not considered relevant work experience compatible with the fellowship criteria

The Paul Harris Fellow: Rotary's Most Meaningful Recognition

Recognizing those who make a difference. The Paul Harris Fellow (PHF) is one of Rotary's highest honors, celebrating individuals who demonstrate extraordinary commitment to service and generosity through support of The Rotary Foundation.

The Paul Harris Fellow recognition was established in 1957 by The Rotary Foundation to honor individuals who contribute, or have contributions made in their name, of \$1,000 or more to support Rotary's humanitarian and educational programs.

The recognition is named after **Paul Harris**, the founder of Rotary, whose vision of bringing professionals together in friendship and service continues to inspire millions around the world.

While originally created to encourage financial support of The Rotary Foundation, the Paul Harris Fellow quickly became something more. Rotary clubs began using the recognition to celebrate individuals who demonstrate **leadership, dedication, and a deep commitment to Rotary's ideals.**

Today, Paul Harris Fellowships are awarded not only to Rotarians, but also to community leaders and partners whose actions help strengthen communities and advance Rotary's mission.

Recipients receive a certificate and the distinctive Paul Harris Fellow pin, and many clubs also present a Paul Harris medallion during a special ceremony. Additional contributions are recognized with **sapphire and ruby stones** on the pin.

Since its creation, millions of Paul Harris Fellowships have been awarded worldwide, making it one of the most recognized honors in Rotary.

More than a recognition, the Paul Harris Fellow represents a commitment to Rotary's enduring motto: **Service Above Self.**

<i>Did You Know?</i>
• The Paul Harris Fellow recognition began in 1957 .
• A PHF represents \$1,000 contributed to The Rotary Foundation.
• Additional giving is recognized with sapphire and ruby pins .
• Millions of PHFs have been awarded worldwide.





Have a bold idea that can change the world? Ready to turn your vision into action, action into impact? Step into the spotlight with this dynamic project showcase.

**Shark Tank:
One Rotary Cancun Summit**

Join this high-energy, high-stakes opportunity to showcase your Global Grant project in front of a panel of influential “sharks” - and a room full of inspired Rotarians eager to invest in bold ideas. This is an opportunity to enhance your project by increasing its impact and assuring its long-term sustainability.

CREATE LASTING IMPACT

Get your project hooked

3 finalists will take the stage to pitch their project at the Cancun Summit

Each finalist will be awarded DDF to support their project

A Rotary Cadre expert will coach you to fine tune your project and GG application

Projects will be showcased at the Cancun Summit House of Friendship to expand your reach and funding

Key dates:

- 1 July 2026 Submit Project Summary to Shark Tank committee
- 15 July 2026 Cadre adviser assigned to coach each project developer
- 1 Sept 2026 GG applications submitted for Shark Tank review
- 10 Sept 2026 3 Finalists announced for each zone pairing
- 17-19 Sept 2026 Finalists present projects at Cancun Summit
- 19 Sept Announcement of awards

for more information, contact Carolyn Johnson cfj2@mac.com



POLIO TALKS: OVERCOMING CHALLENGES TO ERADICATE POLIO

Excerpt adapted from the Polio Talks podcast description on YouTube

On February 23, 2026 — **Rotary's 121st birthday** — Rotarians around the world joined a special **Polio Talks** session hosted by End Polio Now Coordinator **Nikola Bozic**, featuring **Michael K. McGovern**, Chair of Rotary's PolioPlus Committee.

As of January 1, 2026, Mike also began serving as **Chair of the Polio Oversight Board of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI)**, the body that provides strategic leadership for the global eradication partnership.

A realistic but hopeful update

Mike shared an honest assessment of the final phase of polio eradication. While challenges remain, he emphasized that the overall trend is positive and that **a polio-free world remains achievable** with continued collaboration between Rotary, global partners, and frontline health workers.

Pakistan and Afghanistan remain the key focus

Wild poliovirus cases are currently limited to Pakistan and Afghanistan.

In Pakistan, a recent national immunization campaign aimed to reach **45 million children — and exceeded that target**. Just as encouraging, the number of **inaccessible union councils dropped from 18 to 4**, a major breakthrough because eradication depends on reaching every last child.

A crucial insight: access matters more than hesitancy

Mike addressed a common misconception about vaccine refusal. In many areas, the biggest challenge is **not vaccine hesitancy but simply access** — health teams being unable to reach certain communities. This insight highlights the importance of **trust-building, logistics, and operational support** to ensure every child can be vaccinated.

Watch the February 23 Polio Talks recording on YouTube:

https://youtu.be/5dvt2RrJN_M?si=YhW-jwPWTEL_5gm6



Afghanistan challenge: house-to-house vaccination

In Afghanistan, restrictions on **house-to-house vaccination** continue to present obstacles. While the current **site-to-site vaccination approach** has helped maintain progress, restoring house-to-house campaigns will be essential to fully stop transmission.

Financing and Rotary support remain strong

Funding for the eradication effort remains encouraging. **Rotary contributions are performing well**, with increased **District Designated Fund (DDF) pledges and cash donations** compared with recent years. However, a funding gap still exists in the broader multi-year eradication strategy, requiring continued commitment from Rotary and its global partners.

A message for Rotarians

“Every contribution matters, every club can make a difference, and a polio-free world is within reach.”

Echoing Rotary's presidential message to **“Unite for Good,”** McGovern reminded participants that when Rotary and its partners unite, **we get the job done.**



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 District 7090 PolioPlus Society Coordinator Elaine Richard at emmrichard55@gmail.com.

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.

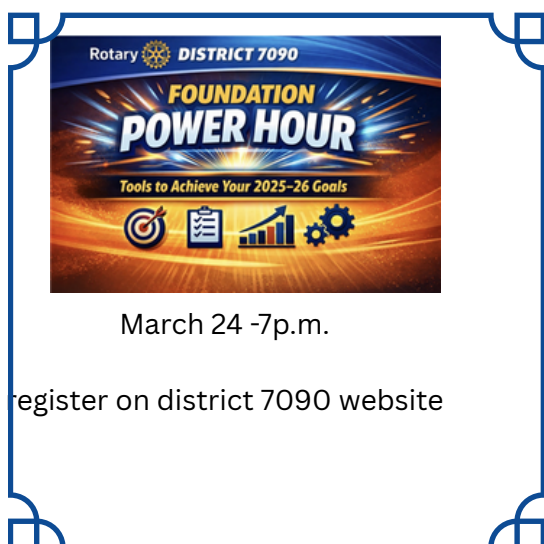


KEY EVENTS

- District Grant Applications Open
- March 24 **Contributions - Foundation Open House**
- Peace Fellow Applications Now Open
- April 17-District High School Scholarship application due
- March 2026: Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Month

LOOKING AHEAD

- April 19 Paul Harris Birthday
- **April 2026:** Environment Month
- **World Immunization Week** April 24-30
- May 15 **Peace Fellow** applications close
- September 26, 2026-**Participate for Polio**
- November 14, 2026-Foundation Celebration



March 24 -7p.m.

register on district 7090 website



Deadline May 15th

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

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