

“Internet access is essential for rural communities. In some ways it’s even more important than for cities. The two things that immediately come to mind are education and jobs.”

online instruction. But Silverton, Colorado, an isolated mountain town of 700 people, had been connected by Eagle-Net to fiber-optic cable — which proved to be a lifeline.

“We were able to keep all our kids connected,” says Kim White, superintendent of Silverton schools. “We had 100 percent of our kids continue to participate. We were able to do physical education classes, after-school programming, and counseling sessions online. There were lots and lots of opportunities. If we hadn’t had that connection, it would have been paper and pencil packets.”

Eagle-Net installed more than 720 miles of new fiber-optic line. With over 250 miles of existing network upgraded and about

2,000 miles of new network lines leased from other companies, the project is providing connections to 126 “community anchor institutions” such as schools, libraries, and nonprofit health care providers across Colorado. And of the state’s 178 school districts, only 12 schools still are not adequately built out to take advantage of high-speed fiber-optic connections.

“Eagle-Net had a tremendous impact on our school,” White says. “We didn’t have the capacity to have multiple kids on multiple computers online at the same time. We couldn’t stream. We had the equipment to do videoconferencing, but we didn’t have the access. It’s opened up new worlds to us.”

— FRANK BURES



What is broadband?

The word *broadband* refers to high-speed, high-capacity, reliable internet access. Wired broadband access can be delivered through a digital subscriber line (DSL), a coaxial cable, or a fiber-optic line (which sends light through glass filaments). Broadband access can also be delivered wirelessly. The minimum speed to be considered broadband is 25 megabits per second (Mbps) for downloading and 3 Mbps for uploading. Better connections are between 100 and 1,000 Mbps.

Most connected U.S. states

- 1
New Jersey
- 2
New York
- 3
Maryland
- 4
Rhode Island
- 5
Florida

Least connected U.S. states

- 46
Vermont
- 47
Nebraska
- 48
New Mexico
- 49
Montana
- 50
Alaska

Short takes

Beginning 1 July 2022, Rotaract clubs will be able to sponsor Rotary Foundation global grants.



Since March, the International Fellowship of Rotarian Doctors has organized virtual discussions to share best practices and offer support to COVID-19 frontline workers.



PROFILE

Leader by example

This district governor is raising up women and young people in Uganda

**Rosetti
Nabbumba
Nayenga**

Rotary Club of
Mukono, Uganda

— NIKKI KALLIO

As of 27 July, The Rotary Foundation had awarded \$26 million to support clubs' efforts to respond to COVID-19.



The Rotary Peace Fellowship Alumni Association held a 24-hour Global Cyber Peace Conference on 27 June.

The Rotary Foundation raised \$408.6 million in 2019-20, exceeding its \$400 million goal.

In 2004, Rosetti Nabbumba Nayenga and her husband, Robert Kalumula Nayenga, were driving in their hometown of Mukono, Uganda, when their car was involved in a head-on collision. Robert was killed instantly. In the aftermath of the crash, Nayenga knew that she needed a way to combat the deep grief she felt.

“Many people who lose a loved one think the world has come to an end. But I didn’t let myself think that way,” she recalls. So when she was invited to a meeting of the Rotary Club of Mukono, she accepted. “Rotary filled the emptiness I was feeling.”

Nayenga, who is deputy head of budget monitoring and accountability in the Ugandan Ministry of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development, recognized that Rotary was a place where she could put her professional skills to work. She took on increasing amounts of responsibility, and this year she is serving as governor of District 9211 (Uganda and Tanzania). She’s the first Ugandan woman to lead a district in Rotary.

In Uganda, Nayenga says, “we grow up with the idea that men are superior, and they should be the leaders.” But she received encouragement and support from her fellow Rotarians and recognized that she had the opportunity to address women’s place in Rotary.

She makes a point of encouraging women and young people to join Rotary — and to invite their friends to join as well. She has asked Rotary committees to offer Rotaractors leadership roles. And she has appointed women to such roles, including Juliet Kyokunda, district executive secretary, and Jane Nankabirwa Kabugo, chair of the 2021 district conference. In every way she can, Nayenga is planning for Rotary’s future.