

DEMROTA

A Quarterly Newsletter for and about the Rotary Club of Demerara



RCD BRANDED MASKS DESIGNED BY RTN LANCELOT

I wish to reiterate Rotary's theme for 2020-2021, Rotary Opens Opportunities, and in this regard, we at Rotary Demerara had to curtail our "Bush Boys" role and focus more on achieving our various goals within the COVID-19 rules, this situation has definitely enabled new areas of coordination and avenues to provide service.

With this constrained environment, we have realigned our strategies to complete works in a more remote setting to conform to the COVID rules. I would like for the next quarter – October to December that we as a Club continue to excel in our efforts to assist the depressed, deprived and the under privileged during this tough pandemic.

Additionally, I would like to encourage our membership to get involved in the various club activities, stay engaged and to be reminded that your efforts are invaluable. Let us help our fellow countrymen and women in this pandemic, let us exemplify service above self. Let us give effect to "Rotary Opens Opportunities".

Another Quarter & Covid is like the unwanted house guest that won't leave. I have Zoom fatigue, Covid fear fatigue, "check the total new cases at the end of the day" fatigue. I know I'm not the only one, and yet somehow, the amount of work that we have been able to accomplish this Quarter surprised me when I started compilation. Many of us haven't seen each other in person for months and while we have felt limited, we actually were able to band together separately and accomplish a lot. Because of this, I thought that the mask was the best representation of our Quarter. We're working separately together, we are all in this together, and we'll all get through it together. Plus, there's a limit to how many zoom call screenshots one can put in a newsletter!

The masks were commissioned by our Service Projects Chair, Lancelot Khan, and were first used at our Board Installation. We continue to use them and some are available for sale (slowest fundraising event ever).

We have worked hard to maintain the formal Rotary structure of meetings, but Zoom's inherent de-personalization and isolation has been a challenge at times. We've taken steps to try to keep things interesting, through "Zoom background challenges", being fined if your camera isn't on, and asking prospective members to speak about themselves. We will shortly host a different type of induction for new Rotarians. Everyone is trying to adapt, and I am proud to be part of a Club that has been doing so.

COVID & THE CLUB

Bhageshwar Murli
President

SEPARATE TOGETHER

Indira Mattai
Club Admin Chair

COVID-19 ACTIVITIES

FRONTLINE WORKERS

Apart from being the "Outdoor Club", another defining feature of our Club is that we have quite a few Rotarian Doctors. Our sincere appreciation goes out to Rtns Gillisa, Shivanie, Tariq, and Keisha for their tireless work during this trying period. We are continually impressed by your commitment and bravery!



MASKS

Through significant funding from GTM, the RCD embarked on a COVID-19 drive in Region 9 where 3000 masks and several sanitization hampers are being distributed to various districts within the region. Rtn Dr. Gilisa D'Aguiar is serving on the COVID-19 Task Force in Region 9 and has been coordinating and participating in the distribution of these masks at that end. So far, 495 masks were distributed in the South Pakaraimas and 486 in South Central Rupununi. The partnership has employed the services of local seamstresses and tailors within the villages to sew a further 1000 masks in its contribution to the local economy. There were some key personnel who were very instrumental in the execution of this noble effort. This includes PP Beverly Harper, PP Patrick DeGroot, IPP Hansraj Singh, Mr. Clairmont Lyle, GTM Staff and other Rotarians. The mask was branded with a GTM logo and Rotary Guyana logo to emphasize the efforts by these responsive organizations.



year 2020	Amount of persons sensitized	accumulated total to Date
March to May	1270	1270
June	117	1387
July	512	1899
August	149	2048

SENSITIZATION

This Quarter, Rtn Lin continued to lead the Sensitization charge under the "Say something, Save someone" Campaign. She sensitized, collected and compiled data and continued to remind the Club about sensitization. Kudos to Rtn Lin, and to those who continued to sensitize during this Quarter, including PP Kathleen, PE Carey, Rtns Keisha, Tariq, Debra & Cheryl. From March to August 2020, the Club has estimated to have sensitized 2048 people on the importance of adhering to all Guidelines to protect against COVID-19.

OUR FIRST ENVIRONMENT AREA OF FOCUS ACTIVITY

SINGLE USE PLASTIC FREE CHALLENGE

This Quarter, Rtn Hance was identified to be the representative on the District 7030 Environmental Committee, established to implement the newest Area of Focus: Supporting the Environment.

Our first activity was to challenge ourselves to participate in Plastic Free July. For the first week in July, we challenged ourselves to cut out all single use plastics from our daily lives. Guyana is looking to ban all single use plastics by 2021. The week resulted in seeing some creative alternatives to plastic use and some meaningful discussion.

Thanks to Rotarians who participated and submitted photos of themselves using SUP alternatives. We hope that this has helped to form some lasting habits!



RCD SINGLE USE PLASTIC FREE CHALLENGE

CHALLENGE: DON'T USE SINGLE-USE PLASTIC FOR ONE WEEK

WAYS TO AVOID USING PLASTIC

- Keep a reusable water bottle so that you can stay hydrated and reduce buying or using bottled water.
- Always pack a reusable bag when shopping.
- Buy in bulk for your home, and advocate for the purchase of less plastic items in your workplace - purchase items in bulk, use 5 gallon water bottles and a dispenser instead of smaller water bottles, etc.
- Cook more often to reduce your use of plastic-heavy takeout containers.
- Avoid individually packaged goods, like snack packs.
- Avoid plastic wrap altogether by storing leftovers in reusable containers.
- Buy a metal or bamboo reusable straw. Pack it alongside reusable cutlery (like wood, bamboo, or metal chopsticks) for sustainable eating on the go.
- Talk to the owners of the restaurants you frequent. Ask if they have non-plastic alternatives to plastic straws, stirrers, or bags.
- Speak out in support of local plastic bans, whether by calling your local government representative, submitting an op-ed to your city's newspaper, or simply starting conversations with neighbors.
- Don't pack your lunch or snacks in ziploc bags - opt for reusable or disposable containers.
- Organize talks or sessions that help to educate everyone about the importance of reducing plastic use.
- Talk to colleagues about other ways that your workplace can reduce plastic.
- Create a Green Committee at work made up of colleagues from different departments to work toward implementation of ALL green practices.

WHAT IS SINGLE USE PLASTIC?

Single-use plastics are meant to be disposed of right after use—often, in mere minutes. Single-use plastics are most commonly used for packaging and serveware, such as bottles, wrappers, straws, and bags.

PROJECTS



EU ITEMS

President Murli & the EU Ambassador. RCD agreed to support the Delegation of the EU in Guyana in the distribution and delivery of office items to the Amerindian Hostel, Hauraruni Girl's Home, Ptolemy Reid Centre, West Ruimveldt Children's Home, SOCDA, MoSP Sexual Offences & Domestic Violence Policy Unit, West Ruimveldt Children's Home, Society for the Blind, Hope Children's Home, the Mahaica Children's Home & others.



LAPTOP & ACCESSORIES

Rtn Ronald and PP Khemraj delivering a brand new laptop, computer accessories (mouse, headphones, printer) and paper to Romel Richard in No. 68 Village, Berbice. Romel is a CSEC student whose family suffered the loss of their home. Items we donated by Queensway Security Service Inc. and additional computer paper supplied by Rtn Simone Morris-Ramlall.



BOOKSHELVES

Prospective Rtn Stefon Paul assisting with the donation & delivery of bookshelves to the Mahaica Home and the Hope Children's Home. PE Carey secured donations from Windjammer International Cuisine & Comfort Inn and Nigel Hinds Accounting Services for the construction costs.

TABLETS

RCD contributed 5 tablets to help dental students access online training courses in the hinterland, which was delivered by Rtn Debra. Additionally, Rtn Delmar handed over tablets to a teacher in Kurukabaru Village to support teaching Grade 6 children remotely. Coordination of these tablets was spearheaded by PP/VP Lance.



FOOD & COTS

AG Renata, Secy Shaneeza, Rtn Delmar & the Rotary Guyana Disaster Relief Committee uplifted items from Food for the Poor. These items were split among the Guyana Rotary Clubs for distribution. Cots delivered to the NTC for distribution in Moruca. Rtns Sohan & Seenan provided transportation.



48,000 JUICES

Spearheaded by Rtn Lancelot and AG Renata, RCD received multiple donations totaling roughly 2000 Cases of Topco Juice from Demerara Distillers Ltd. These juices were distributed to approximately 45 different Homes, Orphanages, Health Centres and different Organizations who would be able to make the best use of this. Thank you to Rtn Lancelot for successfully managing and coordinating this immense distribution. In addition, thank you to Rtns Sohan, Ricky and PE Carey for volunteering to transport items, and to all other Rotarians who assisted and suggested organizations who may be able to benefit.



CSEC TESTING

Rtn Domonique assisting BrainStreet with temperature testing & guidelines for CSEC Students.

REBUILDING LIVES



Earlier this year, the Johnson family lost their house in a fire due to an electrical fault. The family moved in with an Aunt in Parfait Harmonie where they were given permission to construct a house on her land. The family began construction and reached out for aid. As a result, the RCD responded in supporting the Johnson family to complete their new home.

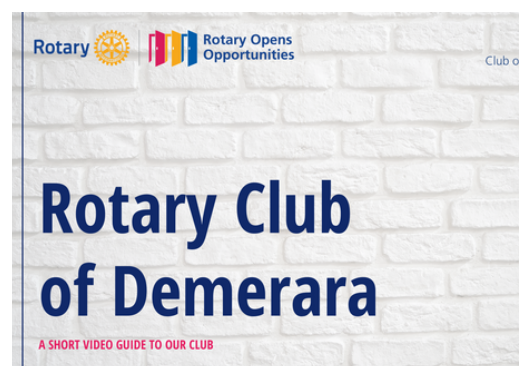
Specifically, donations were provided by PE Carey, PP Ramesh, Rtn Sohan & Rtn Seenan. President Murli secured additional donations for additional materials. Construction is ongoing and we wish the family well in their continued efforts and enthusiasm to rebuild their lives!

RCD VIDEO GUIDE & YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Developed by Rtn Indira, a 6 minute Video Guide about the Club was created. The aim of the video is to share a bit of Club history, some details on what we've been to achieve since 1993, and some ways in which others can join or contribute to make the world a better place!

The video was also shown during our meeting with the DG, and has since been uploaded to the District website as well as District Facebook Page.

In addition, a Rotary Club of Demerara YouTube Channel has been launched! This video along with others has been uploaded to the channel for public viewing. We welcome submission of videos from our Members.



DG LISLE'S (VIRTUAL!) VISIT



For obvious COVID-19 reasons, the DG's visit this year was a virtual one. Some RCD Board Members met with DG Lisle and Secretary Soraya in September to talk about the RCD and our activities. President Murli presented the initial draft of our Plan for the year and what has been accomplished, and PP Ramesh spoke about the positive state of our accounts.

DG Lisle encouraged us to be more visible as a Club and to share all of our PR with the District (Membership Video & Demrota) so that this can be more widely disseminated. We have since done so and older issues of Demrota as well as the Membership Video are now available on the District 7030 Website.

We also spoke about the Grants process for COVID-19 Activities and the limitations both locally and through the District level. We also agreed to encourage our Club members to actively seek Paul Harris Fellows for this year. We agreed to further educate ourselves to dispel myths about it and to look for those who may be interested in becoming a fellow.

While not conventional, it was a pleasure to meet and speak with DG Lisle and Secretary Soraya. Granted, nothing in our lives can be classified as conventional at the moment, but it seems like the only constant is working to adapt to these changing times.

FELLOWSHIP: VIRTUAL JEOPARDY

Developed by Rtn Indira and Rtn Lancelot, the RCD members engaged in a virtual fellowship and played a virtual game of Jeopardy. The theme was "How well do you know your Club?" Categories included Rotarian Trivia, RI, and RCD events.

While the initial plan was to keep score and identify a winner, the plan quickly went off the rails due to excessive fines, good-natured arguments, and learning some previously unknown facts about our fellow Rotarians! We have enough content for Jeopardy Part II and we look forward to playing again (Also, if you're having a bit of trouble, the answer to the question below is PP Marcel Gaskin!)

Rotarian Trivia	RCD Past Events	Rotary International	RCD General	Rotarian Trivia Pt 2
100	100		100	100
	200		200	
				300
400				

TALKS & PRESENTATIONS

President Murli has been pleasantly strict about presentations every week on relevant topics to keep meetings interesting and to keep Rotarians engaged. As such, over the last Quarter, we've had the benefit of listening to the following presentations:

- Rtn Tamika Inglis
- Rtn Marissa Lowden
- Mr. Vishnu Doerga
- Mr. Lesa Gilgeous
- PP / VP Lance Hinds
- Rtn Tariq Jagnarine
- Rtn Gillisa D'Aguiar
- Rtn Shivanie Hendricks
- Leadership in Volunteer Organizations
- Women in Rotary
- Leadership in Volunteer Organizations
- National Library
- Online Learning: The New Normal?
- Mindfulness
- Working on the Covid-19 Frontline
- Working on the Covid-19 Frontline

In addition, we have had many Guests / prospective Rotarians attend meetings over the last few weeks. As such, we asked that each Guest speak for a few minutes about themselves and why they want to join the RCD. We are very excited to meet this new generation of Rotarians and look forward to inducting them shortly!

GUEST TALKS

Members of our Club continue to shine in their fields. While not exhaustive, we'd like to applaud the Rotarians who represented our Club and spoke in other forums during this Quarter.

- **AG Renata Chuck-a-Sang**
- **PP Beverly Harper**

Collaboration with the Brahma Kumaris for multiple Peace related discussions
"Women in Rotary" to the Rotary Club of Stabroek

YOUNGEST BUSH BOY

Club Congratulations are extended to Rtn Kersee for bringing us the youngest (and cutest) member of the RCD Family! Master Kadan David Duncan was born in July 2020. We are happy that Mama and baby are doing well and we welcome him to the fold.

