

Unite for  
Good

ROTARY 7620 NEWSLETTER



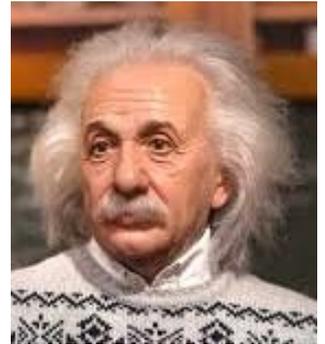
## District Governor Mandy's Message

Albert Einstein, one of the greatest scientific minds of all time, left behind more than equations and theories. He also offered timeless wisdom about the human condition, which is especially meaningful to our district now, following the untimely passing of our Past District Governor, Barton Goldenberg. Among Einstein's most enduring reflections is the statement: "Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile."

In a world that often measures worth by wealth, accolades, or professional status, Einstein's words remind us that true fulfillment is not found in self-centered pursuits. Achievements may bring temporary satisfaction, but they fade with time. What endures is the impact we make on others — the lives we touch, the hope we spark, and the communities we strengthen.

Living "for others" is not about neglecting our own needs, but about recognizing the profound joy that comes from giving of ourselves. Acts of service — whether small kindnesses or transformative projects — create a ripple effect that reaches far beyond what we can see. When we give, we build connections, foster understanding, and create the foundation for peace.

Rotary embodies this philosophy through our motto, "Service Above Self." Rotarians worldwide live Einstein's words every day by dedicating time, energy, and resources to causes greater than themselves: eradicating polio, mentoring youth, advancing peace, and responding to local and global challenges. Each project is a testament to the idea that a life lived for others is indeed a life worthwhile.



Einstein challenges us to measure our lives not by what we gain, but by what we give. When we choose to live for others, we find our greatest purpose — and in doing so, we ensure that our legacy is one of compassion, generosity, and hope.

## September is Basic Education and Literacy Month,

By Holger Knaack, The Rotary Foundation Chair

Education is the most powerful tool we have for changing the world, and during Basic Education and Literacy Month, I want to remind everyone why our work matters.

Education breaks the cycle of poverty, opens doors to opportunity, and empowers individuals to transform their communities. But education doesn't exist in a vacuum. We must also address peace, health, clean water, economic opportunity, maternal and child health, and the environment.

This is why Rotary has these areas of focus. Lasting change requires a comprehensive approach. When we collaborate across these areas through The Rotary Foundation, we raise communities sustainably and with dignity.

I have asked Lynne Paradis from the Rotary Club of Red Deer, Alberta, to share her passion for literacy:

"I believe that literacy is a human right. When I joined forces with the Rotary Club of San Ignacio, Belize, over a decade ago, we set out to improve reading instruction, but we had no idea how far this journey would take us.

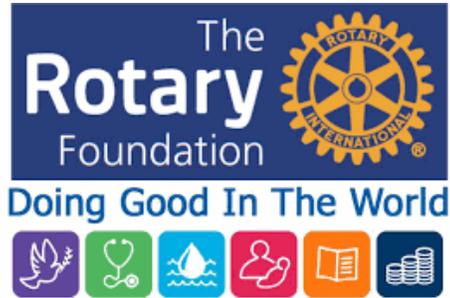
Literacy Alive! has been supported by eight Rotary Foundation global grants since 2011. Using a straightforward approach based on phonics and science, we updated how teachers teach and focused on how students really learn. We collected data on reading skills improvement over six months



Literacy Alive!

[Read More](#)

## District 7620 Announces Second Round of DDF Awards



Rotary District 7620 is pleased to announce the second round of District Designated Fund (DDF) awards supporting District grants in education, health, water, sanitation, and disease prevention. These projects represent Rotary's impact around the world—from bikes and computers to be sent to Africa to food and supplies for our local students and families to medical equipment and furniture for 2 burn centers in other countries.

What makes these awards possible? **Your generosity to The Rotary Foundation.** Every dollar donated returns to our District in the form of DDF or other grant funds, allowing us to multiply the power of your gift through local and global partnerships and matching funds. Quite simply—when you give, the world

receives.

Because of your support, District 7620 is able to invest in meaningful projects that change and save lives. Thank you for making the following District Grants possible through your contributions to The Rotary Foundation. [Read More](#)

## August 2025 Red Line Happy Hour

Rotarians came together for this month's Redline Happy Hour, hosted by the **Rotary Club of Washington, D.C.** ! This special fellowship event brought together members from Rotary clubs across the area to connect, network, and strengthen the bonds that unite us in service and friendship.

We're grateful for the energy, laughter, and shared vision of "Service Above Self" that filled the room. Until next time, let's keep bridging the gap and building community—one connection at a time! A special thanks to @edwardcjones3 for the amazing pictures!



**Get Ready for Our Joint District Conference—An Unforgettable Experience!**



Rotarians of District 7620,

We are thrilled to invite you to our [2025 Joint District Conference](#) alongside District 7610, happening Friday, October 3 through Sunday, October 5, 2025, at the elegant [Westin City Center in Washington, D.C.](#)

This year's event promises to be an extraordinary three days of fellowship, service, and growth—set in the nation's capital with its rich history and endless inspiration. Here's what's on the schedule:

#### Inspiring Keynote Speakers

- The **Honorable Deuntay Diggs** – Known to many as the “Dancing Deputy”, Deuntay’s viral performances to Beyoncé’s “Formation” have captivated millions worldwide—but his true story of resilience, authenticity, and purpose is even more powerful. From overcoming childhood trauma and discrimination to becoming the first African American male and first openly gay Chairman of the Stafford County Board of Supervisors, Deuntay’s journey is one of courage and perseverance. He is also the creator of the acclaimed documentary *Beneath The Scar*, now streaming on Amazon Prime, and serves as Assistant Division Commander for Special Operations at the Stafford County Sheriff’s Office. His message will remind us why hope, action, and authenticity matter in leadership.
- **Kelsey Nicole Nelson** – Recognized as a “rising star” in sports media and one of Maryland’s Top 100 Women (2025), Kelsey is an award-winning broadcaster, entrepreneur, and lecturer at George Washington University. She hosts FOX Sports Radio, leads her own successful podcast, and has been featured globally as a trailblazer in media. Kelsey’s keynote will energize us with insights on breaking barriers, building influence, and leveraging passion for lasting impact—a perfect fit for Rotarians committed to creating change.

#### Fun Activities & Fellowship

[Read More](#)

## Columbia Town Center Rotary Club's Birthday Books Project

### Columbia Town Center Rotary Club Recognized by Howard County School System for Outstanding Work to Launch The Birthday Books Project in Title I Elementary Schools

During the past several years, the Columbia Town Center Rotary Club (CTCRC) has sharpened their focus on literacy, leading the way to spread the love of reading throughout Howard County Elementary Schools.

In 2022, CTCRC began supporting a literacy initiative called The Birthday Books Project in three elementary schools in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). With teachers so enthusiastic about the positive results they are seeing in both skill and attitude toward reading, CTCRC saw an opportunity to make a bigger impact. CTCRC took the lead to promote The Birthday Books Project to other Rotary clubs and secure funding for seven more elementary schools for the coming school year.

Message from Bill Barnes, Howard County Superintendent of Public Schools:

*"On behalf of the staff and students of the Howard County Public School System, I want to extend my sincere appreciation and gratitude to the members of the Columbia Town Center Rotary Club for modeling community leadership and partnership through the Birthday Books Project. An investment in our students' ability to read for information and to read for pleasure is a skill that opens doors and improves their opportunity for success in school and in their lives beyond. I thank the members of the Rotary Club for bringing joy and a sense of community belonging to students in our Title I schools. I have said on many occasions, the incredibly complex work of educating our children cannot be managed by the school system alone; it is an endeavor that takes*

the entire community. THANK YOU for being a model partner, and for being a part of what makes Howard County, MD GREAT! - Superintendent Bill Barnes"

For the past three years, CTCRC has funded the project in three Title I schools: Running Brook, Bryant Woods and Stevens Forest. Title I schools have a high percentage of students that qualify for the Free and Reduced Meals Program. During the 2024-25 school year, over 1200 students received an age- and skill-appropriate book of their own on their birthday to take home. CTCRC purchases the books, ships them to the school and the school announces the student birthdays and the Reading Specialist helps each student choose a gift book. And, through the efforts of Past President, Larry Waligora, club member and Birthday Books Project Director, Marianne Warner, and HCPSS Central Office personnel, we were able to solicit the participation of three other Howard County Rotary clubs (Elkridge, Ellicott City and Columbia-Patuxent) in The Birthdays Books Project. A total of ten HCPSS elementary schools will have The Birthday Books Project funded in the next academic year by Rotary members in Howard County! As a result of CTCRC efforts, over 4,900 students will receive a birthday book this coming year, a gain of 3,700.

If your Rotary club is interested in learning more about The Birthday Books Project or to start a program in your area, please feel free to contact Marianne Warner at: [Director@birthdaybooks.org](mailto:Director@birthdaybooks.org) or Larry Waligora at [Lwaligora@verizon.net](mailto:Lwaligora@verizon.net)

**EVERY CHILD  
DESERVES A  
BIRTHDAY  
BOOK!**



**Columbia Town  
Center Rotary Club**



For many-it's their very first book—a gift that sparks imagination and fosters a love for reading.



## Southern Harford Rotary Club Welcomes New Members & Lends a Hand to Sole Hope

The Southern Harford Rotary Club recently celebrated a special evening of fellowship and service with the induction of two outstanding community leaders—**State Delegate Andre Johnson** and **County Councilmember Nolanda Robert**.

Their commitment to making a difference in our service community reflects the very heart of our mission. Following the induction, members rolled up their sleeves for a meaningful hands-on project in support of **Sole Hope**, a nonprofit dedicated to providing shoes for children in Uganda. Using donated denim, Rotarians cut out patterns that will be transformed into shoe uppers by local artisans in Uganda. These handmade shoes help protect children from jiggers and other parasitic diseases, giving them the freedom to walk, play, and thrive in healthier conditions.

This event was a wonderful reminder of Rotary's motto—**Service Above Self**. By welcoming new members and contributing to a global cause, the Southern Harford Rotary Club continues to foster hope and create positive change, both locally and worldwide. [Read More](#)



## Disaster Update – Work Continues for Texas Flash Floods

*By Bob Grill, President, Disaster Aid USA; Paul Mahata, Co-Chair, District Disaster Relief Committee*

District 7620 Disaster Relief Committee continues to coordinate with Disaster Aid USA to respond to disasters. We are addressing disasters almost year-round within USA and internationally. Currently, we are focused on the continued work for Texas flash floods that devastated many small towns and campgrounds along the Guadalupe River. More details are provided below. To support such relief work, money and supplies are always needed; and we request that you and your club consider donating money to DAUSA.

**Work Continues for Texas Flash Floods:** Flood waters swept across Central Texas, particularly devastating Kerr and Kendall counties. Some areas received over 11 inches of rain in just 3 hours, causing river levels to surge nearly 30 feet. The floods claimed 130+ lives, including children attending a summer camp; and 150+ people still remain missing.

The mission of the first DAUSA team involved clearing debris fields stretching roughly 200 yards long, approximately 10 acres from the river to the road, shuttling material to higher ground to create centralized piles for FEMA collection. The Second team had an emotional day working near the Camp Mystic where many children were swept away by the flood water. Wayne R. Beaumier, DAUSA's, Chairman of the Board and his team focused on mucking and gutting of flooded homes near the camp. One house had about three feet of water, it was full of mud, windows were gone, and almost everything was set out at the curb. A team of 16 people worked vigorously. This team was made up of men, women, young & old of all races. The river was 200 feet away on one side and on the other side, there was 200 feet of debris left by 30 ft of flood water. Repair and rebuild work for many houses remain to be done.



[Read More](#)

## Call for Nominations: 2026 Rotary Global Grant Scholarship

It's time to identify and nominate outstanding candidates for the **2026 Rotary Global Grant Scholarship!**

With the power of your District Designated Funds (DDF) and Rotary International's matching funds, our District can award up to **\$30,000** to a candidate pursuing graduate studies in one of Rotary's Areas of Focus *outside the United States*.

### What Clubs Need to Do

- **September–December:** Identify, interview, and endorse qualified candidates.
- **December 31:** Deadline to submit club endorsements online to the District Global Grants Scholarship Committee using the following link - [Club Endorsement](#).
- **February–March:** District finalist interviews.
- **March–April:** District selection of scholar(s).
- **May–June:** District submits Global Grant application and partners candidate with a host Rotary club in the destination country.
- **August:** Scholarship funds become available; most scholars begin studies.

### Key Eligibility Rules (Remember 1–2–3!)

1. **Graduate studies only** (no undergraduate programs).
2. **Outside the United States.**
3. **Degree must align with one of Rotary's Areas of Focus.**

Together, let's **Unite for Good** by launching a scholar who will create **measurable, sustainable change** in the world!

Contact Kristin Post, District 7620 Peace Fellow and Global Scholarship Chair, for more information.

[Read More](#)

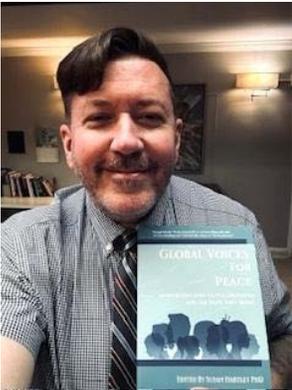
## Key City Rotary was literally everywhere at SHE week

Here are the many ways in which Key City was represented...



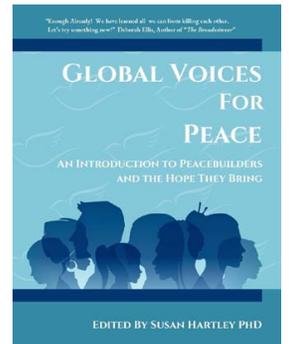
The past (Chenee Beach), current (Danielle Rizzo), and future (Jolena Simoneau) Women in Business Committee co-chairs are all Key City Rotarians. As are committee members Rebecca Swaing-Eng and Monica Slate. Inga James won the SHE'S RISING award at SHE pitch. Presenting awards were Helen Propheter and Beth Woodring. Amanda Haddaway served as a panelist for Financial Momentum. And of course, a number of other Key City members were there to support and celebrate the amazing women in our community!

## New Book "Global Voices for Peace" by Editor Susan Hartley, PhD.



Rotary Club of Capitol Hill

As a Rotary Peace Fellow alumnus and current member of the Rotary Club of Capitol Hill in District 7620, I'm quite honored and humbled to count myself as one of the contributing authors to this brand new book "Global Voices for Peace" by editor Susan Hartley, PhD. Susan was one of the highly talented guest instructors at the Rotary Peace Center at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand during my Rotary Peace Fellowship there. I was very happy to be asked by Susan to contribute to her book, which couldn't have been published at a more opportune time globally. I was also grateful to see so many of my colleagues and friends from Rotary International and the Rotary Peace Fellowship community represented as co-contributors. This past year has been an especially tough one for me (and for so many of us) so this is a wonderful time to pause, recharge, and acknowledge the good work that we can all do together when we recommit to the idea of global peacemaking! If you like, you can order your own copy at: [www.globalvoices4peace.ca](http://www.globalvoices4peace.ca)  
Sincerely, Mark Flanigan



## Back to School Welcome!

At the @mayor\_bowser Back to School Welcome event, Rotarians volunteered to cheer and welcome students as they enter their schools. The Joy we share in Capitol Hill Rotary! Service above Self



## Parole Rotary Club's Youth Exchange Student, Lara Walker from Brazil

Parole Rotary Club is pleased to announce the arrival of our Youth Exchange Student, Lara Walker from Brazil, who is continuing her family's tradition as a second-generation Youth Exchange participant. Lara will be entering the 11th grade at Arundel High School. She has a keen interest in jazz and modern dance and recently experienced her first Reece's Peanut Butter Cup, anticipating further opportunities to enjoy American teenage cuisine.

We extend our gratitude to Ed White, Youth Services Director; Ric Myers, Jr, District 7620 Youth Committee Chair; and Dave Vogel, District Lieutenant Governor, for their exemplary coordination in making Lara's exchange possible. We also acknowledge **Rotary District 7620** and **Rotary International** for their ongoing commitment to promoting peace through the Youth Exchange Program.

Parole Rotary Club is honored to participate in this initiative and serve as host to Lara. We invite District 7620 Rotarians to assist in providing Lara with diverse opportunities and experiences throughout Maryland and Washington, D.C. Your engagement will ensure that this exchange is both enriching and memorable for her. Please contact Ed White @ [edwhite@edwhiteinc.com](mailto:edwhite@edwhiteinc.com).



## Celebrating Rotary Leadership Institute Alumni

The Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) launched the RLI Alumni program with a celebration of approximately 70 Alumni at the Mid-Atlantic RLI Summer Meeting July 11-12 in North Carolina. An awesome resource for new, as well as more experienced Rotarians, RLI

provides a variety of learning opportunities – now with the additional benefit of becoming an Alumni after completing the first training course!

As explained by Laurie Reuben, RLI courses are open to all Rotarians - whether or not they are an officer or are considering an official role in their Club or District. *"One of the benefits of being a Rotarian is that you have access to leadership training – the beauty is that it is provided in the context of your Rotary experience, which makes it instantly applicable."* Laurie, who recently began serving as the RLI District Chair (District 7620) explained that she "came late to the RLI training program". A member of Rotary for 15 years, she was president of her club in 2015-16 and continues as an active Rotarian in her current club in Columbia, Maryland. She completed her RLI training last year, as she became increasingly involved in District-level activities, and she is now taking RLI graduate courses.

There are over 3,000 alumni in the Mid-Atlantic region. Through the training - and now through RLI Alumni events - there are many opportunities for people to connect with people from other clubs. *"You might have, for example, Rotarians from different parts of the region who find that they share similar interests, such as peace, health or farming, and then they continue to exchange information and ideas following the training."* As Laurie explained, *"What I found at the summer meeting is that this is a highly passionate group of people who are engaged. They want to know how they can make the biggest impact in helping people to understand that RLI is for everybody..."*

[Read More](#)

## Crab Feast Fundraiser 2025

By Michael Naghdi on Thursday, August 21, 2025

Our Lake Shore-Severna Park Rotary Club Crab Feast fundraiser was a tremendous success, and I would like to thank everyone in our club for helping make this one of our best events yet. A special thank-you goes to Bunnie Clark, Debra Langseth, Peggy Kennelley, Bob Sartwell, and their families for their hard work and dedication in ensuring everything came together smoothly. I would also like to recognize Ben Wisthoff for his outstanding auctioneering skills, which made our cake wheel auction both exciting and successful. Finally, heartfelt thanks to all our club members who generously donated school supplies and items for auction—your support helped make this fundraiser both enjoyable and profitable for our club's mission of service.



Take your leadership skills to the next level with RLI - Rotary Leadership Institute



[Read More](#)

## An Evening of Fellowship, Music, and Rotary Friendship

On Tuesday, July 29, 2025, the Rotary Club of Rockville and the Rotary Club of Gaithersburg came together for a special joint Happy Hour at the DoubleTree Hotel Bar & Lounge in Gaithersburg. In the true spirit of the 2025-26 Rotary theme, **"Unite for Good,"** the two clubs united for an evening of fellowship, laughter, and shared purpose, proving that the joy we share goes far beyond just one hour.

A highlight of the night was a beautiful flute performance by Alicia Hannon, Past President of the Rotary Club of Rockville, whose music filled the room with warmth and earned enthusiastic applause. This collaborative gathering was inspired by Hande Apaydin, Past President of the Rotary Club of Rockville and Rotary District 7620 Assistant Governor for Area 6, who suggested bringing the two clubs together for this celebration of fellowship.

Among those enjoying the evening were Rockville Rotarians Ukpeme Akpan Okon, Club President; Alicia Hannon, Past President; Claude Rollin; Chuck Woolery; and Susan Gordon, Immediate Past President. We are especially grateful to Rotary Club of Gaithersburg President Priscilla Kinnear and her members for their warm welcome and enthusiastic partnership. Events like this remind us that when clubs connect, friendships grow, ideas flourish, and the Rotary spirit shines even brighter.





## Rising to Shine Education Foundation

By Michael Naghdi on Wednesday, August 27, 2025

On August 6, 2025, our Lake Shore–Severna Park Rotary Club proudly voted to support a student in Kenya with a \$2,400 scholarship through the "Rising to Shine Education Foundation". This commitment will help provide access to education and opportunities that can change the course of a young person's life. Several of our members generously stepped forward with contributions of \$100 each, and the club will cover the remaining balance to ensure the full scholarship is funded. This effort reflects our club's dedication to making a difference both locally and globally, empowering students to rise and shine toward a brighter future.

## Parole Rotary Club Interact Clubs Social at Annapolis Town Center



[More](#)

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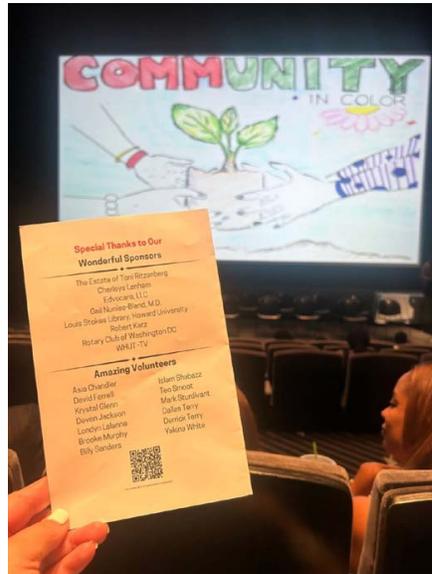
## Rotary Club of Washington Global

On Sunday, August 3rd, the Rotary Club of Washington Global had a fantastic informal gathering hosted by Club President Michael "Mike" McCabe. Thank you for fellowship, fun, and great company!



## Rotary Club of Washington, D.C.

On Sunday, August 3, 2025, DC Rotary Club President Donnie Shaw, Past President Lynn Holec, Past President Marilyn Nevy Cruz and Fellowship Co-Chair Kenneth Brown had the privilege to represent the DC Rotary Club at the Light the Way Foundation Red Carpet Premiere, "Community In Color". The DC Club and its Foundation, the Rotary Foundation of Washington, D.C. has been partnering with this amazing organization serving Washington metro youth for several years now and they couldn't be more excited for all they do to keep our youth engaged. Thank you to their amazing Founder Janice Murphy for the red carpet hospitality. The future of the world is in great hands!



#PeopleOfAction #Youth #DMV #CommunityGrants #DCRotaryClub

## Lake Shore–Severna Park Rotary Club Supports Education

By Michael Naghdi on Saturday, August 23, 2025

The Rotary Club of Lake Shore–Severna Park is proud to support local education by collecting and distributing over 650 pounds of school supplies for students and teachers in Pasadena and Severna Park. With the generous assistance of Pasadena Business Association member Heather Frees, along with several of our dedicated club members, we sorted and organized the donations to benefit 14 elementary schools across our community. This effort reflects our commitment to service and to ensuring that every child has the tools they need to succeed in the classroom.



[Read More](#)

## Parole Rotary Club in the Community - Annapolis Town Center



<https://dacdb.com/Rotary/Accounts/7620/Club/23264/July%20Parole%20Club%20at%20Annapolis%20Town%20Center.jpg>



[Read More](#)

## Rotaract Club of Washington, D.C.

Keep up the great work Rotaract Club of Washington, D.C. !

### August 2025 General Meeting + Cultural Exchange Activity with the Rotaract Club of Ouro Preto, Brazil



**Volunteering with Seabury Resources for Aging**



[Read More](#)

## Rotaract Club of Georgetown



**Reese Oakes**



THIS SUMMER I WENT TO THE ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION IN CALGARY, CANADA WHERE I MET PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE GLOBE WHO WERE UNITED BY ROTARY! BESIDES THAT, I SPENT MY TIME AS A SERVER AT MY HOMETOWN.

PRESIDENT



**Gianna Yerkes**



I'M A SOPHOMORE IN THE MSB STUDYING BUSINESS AND GLOBAL AFFAIRS FROM SOCIAL. I LOVE SPENDING TIME OUTDOORS, GOING TO CONCERTS, READING, AND COOKING! SUPER EXCITED FOR THIS YEAR :)

SECRETARY

**Meet Our Team**



Musinga Mbuvi  
GLOBAL HEALTH CHAIR




Nick Mihalko  
TREASURER



Reese Oakes  
PRESIDENT



Gianna Yerkes  
SECRETARY



**Nick Mihalko**



I'M NICK, AND I'M A SOPHOMORE IN THE MSB MAJORING IN FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT. I'M FROM NEW JERSEY AND I LOVE TO WATCH MOVIES AND GO BIKING.

TREASURER



**Musinga Mbuvi**



I'M FROM ATLANTA, AND I ENJOY TO PLAYING SOCCER, HIKING, AND GOING TO STREET RACES! THIS SUMMER I WAS SHADOWING DOCTORS AND WATCHING MOVIES. MY FAVORITES WERE SINNERS AND FI!

GLOBAL HEALTH CHAIR

## A record-breaking year for Rotaract giving

Congratulations to the 1,036 Rotaract clubs that earned the 2024-25 Rotaract Giving Certificate!

**A HUGE congratulations to our very own [Rotaract Club of Hood College](#) and [Rotaract Club of Washington, D.C.](#) on this incredible accomplishment!**

This recognition celebrates clubs whose members contributed US\$100 or more to The Rotary Foundation during the Rotary year. Each club will receive a certificate signed by 2024-25 Foundation Trustee Chair Mark Daniel Maloney.



This year's contributions from Rotaract clubs totaled US\$506,696 an increase of 29.4% from last year's total of US\$391,558, reflecting the growing impact and dedication of Rotaractors. The number of clubs that earned the certificate reached 1,036 clubs, surpassing last year's record of 882 clubs.

Rotaract clubs who have earned the Rotaract Giving Certificate over the past 5 years have contributed more than US\$1.3 million to The Rotary Foundation, helping make global grants possible and funding meaningful, sustainable projects.

Thank you, Rotaract club members. Your generosity is creating lasting change in communities around the globe, and your commitment to Rotary empowers us all to continue Doing Good in the World.

[Download the list of clubs that received the Rotaract Giving Certificate in 2024-25.](#)

## Rotaract Club of Annapolis Raises Funds for Anne Arundel County Literacy Council

### Rotaract Club of Annapolis Raises Funds for Anne Arundel County Literacy Council at Annual Event

The Rotaract Club of Annapolis presented the Anne Arundel County Literacy (AACL) Council a check for \$18,600 at a recent Rotary Club of Annapolis luncheon. The funds were raised at the Rotaract Club's annual Rock the Dock event, which was held on June 5, 2025, at the Annapolis Maritime Museum.

Jane Seiss, Executive Director of the AACL, accepted the check and stated that funds will be used for several projects including upgrading textbooks and teaching materials for their ESL program, to help offset costs of training 40-50 tutors, and enabling greater outreach into the communities that could benefit from their programming.

"We are thrilled by the incredible generosity of our community in supporting Rock the Dock," stated Sue Weber, president of the Rotary Club of Annapolis. "Raising more than \$18,000 for the Anne Arundel County Literacy Council means providing vital resources to help adults gain the reading, writing, and English skills they need to thrive. This event is a testament to the power of service, partnership, and coming together for a cause that strengthens our entire community."

[Read More](#)



## In Memoriam PDG Barton Goldenberg

With a heavy heart, I write to share the heartbreaking news that our dear friend and Past District Governor, **Barton Goldenberg**, passed away after a courageous battle with cancer. Barton was surrounded by his



loving family during his final moments. This is an immense loss for our Rotary family, our district, and the world. Barton was not only a leader but also a mentor to many and an inspiration to all. His wisdom, grace, and unwavering dedication to Rotary have left an indelible mark on us. His legacy will live on in the lives he touched and the service he championed. Besides being a dedicated Rotarian and active member of the Metro Bethesda Rotary club, Barton built a thriving business, authored four books, and was a globally respected keynote speaker. He also had a deep love for sailing and the Chesapeake Bay. Temrah Okonski and I were blessed with the opportunity to spend August 23 on the Bay with Barton and his family. Being by the water brought Barton peace and joy. It was his happy place. Sharing yesterday with him and his family, one last time, was truly special, a memory never to be forgotten. [Read More](#)

## Tribute to PDG Barton Goldenberg by iPDG Nomie Hamid

It's incredibly difficult to find the right words in moments like this-when someone larger than life leaves a space that cannot be filled.

PDG Barton Goldenberg was that someone. A man who inspired, mentored, challenged, and above all-led.

I was one of the lucky ones. Barton saw something in me. He selected me as an emerging leader, which set me on the path to becoming District Governor. It was Barton who installed me in June 2024-welcoming my family with warmth, offering words of confidence, and wrapping me in the kind of support that only Barton could give. Every single time we spoke, he said, *"You're doing great, my friend. You were born a leader."* That reassurance became a guiding light for me.

Barton was a giant in Rotary-not just in stature or resume, but in spirit. He served as President of the Metro Bethesda Rotary Club, District Governor during one of the hardest moments in recent history-at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and he did so with resilience, grace, and purpose.

I had the privilege of serving as a Club President under his leadership. Together, we launched a COVID-19 hotline that helped hundreds of people in need. It wasn't just about crisis management. Barton empowered us to act, to serve, to lead. [Read More](#)



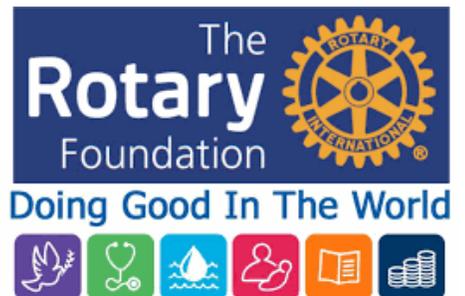
## District 7620 Global Grants 2024–25: \$2.7 Million in Worldwide Impact!

By Barbara Jean Chamberlain-Skinner

Due to **your contributions to The Rotary Foundation**, Rotary District 7620 clubs are spearheading humanitarian and educational projects worldwide, with total budgets exceeding **\$2.7 million**. Over the 2024–25 Rotary Year, the District committed **\$120,000 in matching District Designated Funds (DDF and Hanson Directed Gift Funds** in conjunction with our District Rotary Clubs supporting initiatives on five continents.

District 7620's global impact spans water and sanitation, disease prevention, literacy, health care, and education—demonstrating Rotary's commitment to "service above self" both locally and globally.

We want to especially thank **Ila Shaw** of the Charlotte Hall Rotary Club for the numerous Global Grants that she contributed to. She truly exhibits the multiplying effect of collaboration and The Rotary Foundation.



A full list of Global Grants awarded in District 7620 can be found on the District website, under the Foundation tab.

[Read More](#)

## New Interact promotional video



Have you been curious about Interact and wished you could watch a video to learn about the program? Or have you invited young leaders to participate in Interact and thought a video could help you explain the club experience? An Interact promotional video is now available!

Use this video to showcase the Interact club participant experience. Share it at Rotary or Rotaract meetings, screen it at school and community events, and post it on your website and social media feeds. You can play the video on [YouTube](#) or download it from the Brand Center in [Chinese](#), [English](#), [French](#), [German](#), [Italian](#), [Japanese](#), [Korean](#), [Portuguese](#), and [Spanish](#).

[WATCH THE VIDEO](#)

## Charter Interact clubs with a new digital form

Interact clubs can now be chartered quickly and easily online, without signatures or PDFs. Submitting the new [digital charter form](#) will automatically generate emails to the club's adviser, sponsor club presidents, and district governor to confirm their approval. This will save valuable time as well as space in your inbox! The form is available in nine languages.



## New youth workshop collaboration with Toastmasters International



Toastmasters International, in collaboration with Rotary International, has developed a ready-to-use workshop series. This thoughtfully crafted curriculum empowers young leaders by strengthening their interpersonal and communication skills. Explore how this resource can enhance your youth programs, and consider partnering with a local Toastmasters club to bring these dynamic youth leadership workshops to life.

[COLLABORATION GUIDE](#)

### Four-Way Test

Is it the truth?  
Is it fair to all concerned?  
Will it build goodwill and better friendships?  
Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

### District 7620 Newsletter Team:

Bob Nelson, PDG

Dave Vogel, LTG

ROTARY'S VISION STATEMENT

**TOGETHER** WE SEE A WORLD  
WHERE **PEOPLE** UNITE AND TAKE ACTION  
TO **CREATE** LASTING  
**CHANGE** ACROSS THE GLOBE  
IN OUR COMMUNITIES AND IN OURSELVES