

## April is... Maternal & Child Health Month

# Rotary



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### Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

The entire world is once again battling the recent wave of the Corona Virus. After a dip, the number of Covid-19 infected cases are unfortunately on the rise.

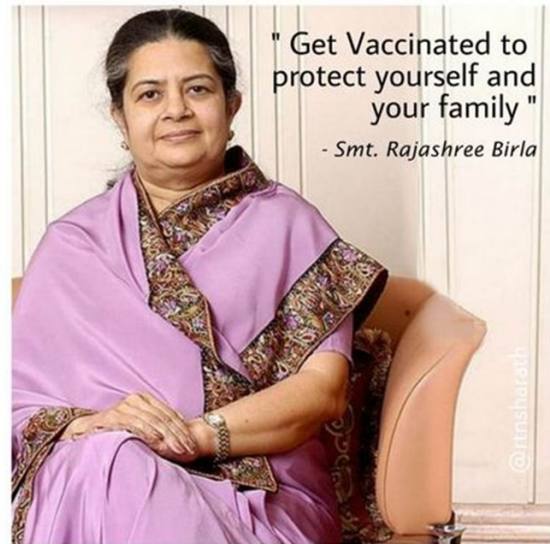
However, humanity now has at least one significant weapon to battle the virus. Vaccination drives are in full swing, and the endeavour is to have maximum people vaccinated in the shortest period of time. The vaccination is expected to increase immunity and to put us in a better position to recover, even if infected.

With a population of over 1.3 billion citizens, conducting vaccination drives in a country like India is a massive affair, requiring all possible support.

Smt. Rajashree Birla, the Indian philanthropist, who is a great supporter of the Polio Eradication initiative and has contributed over US\$11 million to The Rotary Foundation, has once again come forward to support humanity. Smt. Rajashree Birla has contributed Rs. 50 Lakhs (US\$ 70,000) to support Rotary India's Covid Task Force in its endeavour to fight against the Covid-19 Pandemic. Rotary thanks Smt. Rajashree Birla!

We wish all our readers to remain safe and healthy!

Rotary Regards,



Rotary  **SUPPORTS COVID VACCINATION**



**Jeetendra Sharma**

**Editor in Chief – RGHF's Our Foundation Newsletter**

# World Immunization Week is 24-30 April

*Join with Rotary to promote the power of vaccines.*

During World Immunization Week, 24-30 April, join with Rotary to combat vaccine hesitancy and misinformation by spreading the facts about why #VaccinesWork.

With decades of experience fighting polio, Rotary plays a key role in informing people about the power and effectiveness of vaccines. As COVID-19 vaccines become more available, Rotary members are using our experience in fighting polio to help communities with their [vaccination education and organization efforts](#). And today, because we and our partners have

worked so hard, wild poliovirus remains endemic in only two countries: Afghanistan and Pakistan. But to eradicate it there and to prevent a resurgence in other parts of the world, we must continue to build trust in vaccines and raise funds for polio eradication, including vaccine delivery.



Click image to watch video



# \$15.5 million gift will fund new Rotary Peace Center in Middle East or North Africa

The Otto and Fran Walter Foundation has pledged \$15.5 million to The Rotary Foundation to start a [Rotary Peace Center](#) in the Middle East or North Africa.

The new center will offer a [professional development certificate program](#) focused on peacebuilding and development issues in the region. This generous gift from the [Walter Foundation](#), which is based in Boothbay Harbor, Maine, USA, will fund the center's startup costs and operating expenses, as well as an endowment that will provide peace fellowships in perpetuity for up to 40 students to study there each year.

"Rotary has, for a long time, looked at how we can make a tangible contribution to the one area of the world where the element of peace has seemed so elusive," says Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair K.R. Ravindran. "Now that opportunity has come our way, thanks to the immense generosity of the Otto and Fran Walter Foundation. We will take full advantage to create a center where we can inspire our peace fellows to give flight to their spirit and equip them to be able to support action that will bring about peace and goodwill in a troubled region."

The Rotary Foundation will select a partner institution to host the Otto and Fran Walter Rotary Peace Center in 2024, and the first Rotary Peace Fellows are expected to start studying there in January 2026.

Otto and Fran Walter established their family foundation to promote peace and other charitable causes, and their mission lives on even after their deaths. Otto was born in Germany in 1907 and worked as a lawyer there. When totalitarianism arose in Europe, the Nazi government enacted the Nuremberg laws, which pushed Jewish professionals out of their jobs. Summarily disbarred, Otto worked briefly as a law clerk before emigrating to the United States in 1936. He and his parents settled in New York.



Otto and Fran Walter started their foundation to address hunger prevention and peace. Their foundation has pledged \$15.5 million to The Rotary Foundation to start a Rotary Peace Center in the Middle East or North Africa.

*Photo courtesy of The Otto and Fran Walter Foundation*

## OUR FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

*A Newsletter for Rotary Leaders • A monthly feature*

His law degree wasn't recognized in the U.S., so Otto improved his English and started professional training. He earned a license as a certified public accountant and opened an accounting firm. But he never stopped believing that he could work as a lawyer again. Eventually, he sold his accounting firm and entered law school at New York Law School, graduating in 1954. The next year, he started a law firm which, with the support of his wife, Fran, steadily grew to employ 40 lawyers.

Through his legal work, Otto helped promote peace and improve relations between Germany and the U.S. After the Nuremburg laws were repealed, he became licensed to practice law in what was then East Germany and served as an adviser to the German Ministry of Finance during the negotiations of a 1954 U.S.-German income tax treaty. Otto and Fran focused on their philanthropic foundation later in their lives, becoming personally involved in the grants that they were able to fund. Otto became a member of the Rotary Club of New York City.

After Otto and Fran both died in 2003, Rotarian Frank Helman, a law colleague and friend, became president and director of their Foundation. He and his wife, Martha "Marty" Helman, the current president of the foundation, helped shepherd the \$15.5 million gift to The Rotary Foundation. The Helmans are both members of the Rotary Club of Boothbay Harbor.

"The Walter Foundation can imagine no better way to remember Otto and Fran and their legacy than through a Rotary Peace Center in the Middle East — a part of the world that has been torn by conflict," says Marty, who also serves as chair of The Rotary Foundation's Peace Major Gifts Initiative Committee. "The Walter Foundation is a small family foundation; we needed the partnership with Rotary to create a world-class peace center."

Since the first Rotary Peace Fellows began their studies in 2002, the Rotary Peace Centers have trained more than 1,400 fellows who now work in more than 115 countries. Many serve as leaders in government, nongovernmental organizations, the military, education, law enforcement, and international organizations like the [United Nations](#) and [World Bank](#).

Source: [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)



**Rotary Centers for  
International Studies in peace  
and conflict resolution**



## Rotary Peace Centers

Each year Rotary awards up to 80 fully-funded fellowships for experienced professionals seeking to earn a Professional Development Certificate in peace and development studies.

The year-long program is designed for working professionals and requires 11 weeks of onsite participation.

Watch the video to learn more!



<https://www.facebook.com/Rotarypeacecenters/videos/482553162779078/>

**Applications accepted now through 15 May 2021.**

<https://www.rotary.org/en/our-programs/peace-fellowships>





# Rotary Peace Center at Chulalongkorn University



Birgit Hermann ([Rotary Peace Center at Chulalongkorn University 2021](#)) leads marine conservation initiatives in Timor-Leste. As a long time practitioner in a post-conflict country the certificate fellowship "is more a leap 'from practice to theory'. It's offering me another set of different lenses so that I can see something that was always there but I never saw. We are reflecting on systems thinking, something I'm very familiar with already - just look at a marine ecosystem!"

Read more: <https://on.rotary.org/3wafLJ2>

Source: Rotary Peace Centers on Facebook



## Rotary Peace Fellowship



**BIJAY SHRESTHA**  
ROTARY PEACE FELLOW

Uppsala University 2018-20  
Uppsala, Sweden

"I really appreciate the applied field experience (AFE) as it allows fellows to participate in internships or carry out individual research between the first and second year of the program. Apart from gaining academic knowledge at the university, this experience gave me practical insight into various local peacebuilding and development initiatives for sustainable change."

The Rotary Foundation  

Rotary Peace Fellowship applications accepted now through 15 May 2021.



Begin your journey at

<https://www.rotary.org/en/our-programs/peace-fellowships>





## Rotary Peace Fellowship



### SASHA DAVIS

ROTARY PEACE FELLOW

University of Bradford 2016-17  
Bradford, United Kingdom

"During my time at Bradford, I gained many tools relevant to my career. I so appreciated being part of such a diverse cohort. Lectures were often open to lively conversation from truly global perspectives. I work with people from around the world, and the success of my job is dependent on how effective I can be collaborating across time zones and cultures. Learning an effective style of collaboration during my MA has been very helpful to my current work."

The  
**Rotary**  
Foundation



**Rotary Peace Fellowship applications accepted now through 15 May 2021.**

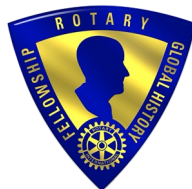


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Find out more: <https://on.rotary.org/3f85T>



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