



MESSAGE FROM DISTRICT GOVERNOR ALFRED CURRENT

December brings on a season of celebration. For many, it is a religious tradition known as 'Christmas,' and for others, a community holiday experience. Gifts are given, songs are sung, and candles shine light throughout the world. Rotarians worldwide designate December as 'Disease Prevention and Treatment' month. Rotarians gift their time, talent, treasure, and connections through a variety of projects to improve the human condition. Whatever one's perspective, Rotary has given a gift of freedom to the children of the world through its continuing efforts to eradicate Polio from the face of planet Earth.



As of this writing, there are eleven cases of polio wild virus type 1 confirmed in 2023. In this holiday season of giving please consider a gift to The Rotary Foundation's PolioPlus Fund. Sixty cents will provide the drops necessary to save a child from the ravages of the dreaded Polio virus. Two drops prevent twisted limbs, paralysis, and despair. In addition, you may have a passion for supporting other efforts for disease prevention and treatment. Leverage Rotary in a way that others are served. May your presence be your presents.

Let your light shine this holiday season and together we **Create Hope in the World.**

Season's Greetings to All,
Alfred

District Governor 2023-24
Rotary International District 6960



2023-24 District 6960
Rotary Foundation Team

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THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

by Jim Hinck, District 6960 Foundation Chair

Tis the Season for Giving, Rotarian Generosity is in the Air...

In the spirit of the Holiday Season, District 6960 Rotarians are showing their generosity and dedication to Service Above Self through their donations to the Rotary Foundation. The District Foundation team would like to thank all of you for your generosity and devotion to The Rotary Foundation. A special thank you for all of you who remembered The Rotary Foundation on Giving Tuesday! Remember there is still time to make a 2023 tax-deductible gift to The Rotary Foundation.

As we wind down 2023 there are two important reminders to share.

The first is we are in the midst of another Annual Fund contest here in District 6960. The TOP-FIVE Clubs in the District in per-capita giving to the Annual Fund will each earn \$1000 in District Designated Funds (DDF) towards a Global Grant project. The winners will be as of Annual Fund giving on January 31, 2024. All clubs are still in the running for the TOP FIVE.

Here are the current TOP FIVE Clubs in Annual Fund giving - PER CAPITA as of November 28, 2023.

- 1. Sarasota Southside: \$937.50 - YES \$937.50**
- 2. Sarasota Gulf Gate: \$313.75**
- 3. Fort Myers South: \$183.74**
- 4. Lakewood Ranch: \$175.15**
- 5. Cape Coral Sunset: \$135.14**
6. Cape Coral \$121.63
7. Naples \$115.42

The annual District 6960 Foundation dinner is fast approaching on Saturday, February 17, 2024. The event will be held at the Venice - Plantation Golf and Country Club just nine minutes off of I-75. All Rotarians and friends are invited to attend this special event where we celebrate all the "GOOD" our Foundation does! Our keynote speaker will be Past Rotary International President and current Rotary Foundation Trustee/ Chair-Elect Mark David Maloney. You will not want to miss this special evening! Registration is on the calendar in DACDB.

Thank you as always for your continued generosity and commitment to Rotary!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year,

Jim

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Membership Growth

ROTARY MEMBERSHIP

by Don Thomas, District 6960 Membership Chair

Who are the Alumni in Rotary?

Rotarians often ask this question, not familiar with the Alumni designation. You might even be a Rotary Alumni...and not even know it.

You are an alumni if you participated in any of the following programs:

[Interact](#), [Rotaract](#), [Rotary Youth Exchange](#), [New Generations Service Exchange](#), [Rotary Youth Leadership Awards](#) (RYLA), [Rotary Peace Fellowships](#), [Rotary Scholarships](#) (funded by global grants or district grants), [vocational training teams](#) (members and leaders), Ambassadorial Scholarships, Grants for University Teachers, Group Study Exchange (members and leaders), and Rotary Volunteers.

Many of our current Rotary club members took part in the programs listed above. You already were or later became a Rotarian. What about the individuals that took part and have not become part of Rotary?

Many of our Rotary club members in our District 6960 know people that took part in one of these programs. However, we have not stayed in contact with them. The current database of Alumni at Rotary International and our district database are not up to date. You are the best contact to reach out to these individuals, to see how they are doing, and let them know you are now in Rotary.

How do we tap this rich resource?

MANAGING ALUMNI DATA

Past program participants may not be aware of their 'Alumni' status. **Encourage and help** alumni, current and past program participants, to create and or update their 'MyRotary.org' profiles at the Rotary International website and keep their information up to date. This is the best way for alumni to manage their data. Data may include contact information, address, phone number, and email address. With this information, alumni would be able to receive district newsletters and a local club bulletin with other pertinent opportunities within Rotary.

Invite an Alumni to one of your meetings and have them as a guest speaker at your club. They are an **untapped resource** to become a participating member of a Rotary Club.

ENGAGING WITH ALUMNI

Find a role that is right for each alum. Show these people that Rotary offers what they're looking for: opportunities to join leaders, take action, and exchange ideas.

Again, contacting past participants is a great opportunity to keep them involved and potentially, increase your club membership.

Your district is here to help you. Let us know how you are doing. Work with your membership chair to tap this great resource of Alumni to stay involved with Rotary and eventually join a club.



HANWASH

Haiti National Clean Water,
Sanitation and Health Strategy

What is HANWASH?

HANWASH is a partnership between Rotarians and Haitian government at national & local levels. Rotarians in Haiti and globally bring their voices, raise money, and volunteer their time to support the country's institutions to reach everyone with WASH. 22 Rotary Clubs, 16 Rotary Districts, and personal contributions allowed a successful start to the first phase of the US\$2.5 million water system.

What is life like in Cavaillon?

Life in Cavaillon is community oriented. The town hosts bi-weekly markets on Wednesdays and Saturdays, selling products ranging from livestock, to schoolbooks, to fresh fruit, rice, beans, salt, and clothes. This market attracts many people from nearby villages and towns, as it is a primary form of income generation. Often people must walk many miles to reach the village center which is made difficult due to unkept roads. Likewise, water sources are hard to come by and require travelling far distances which occupies significant time for those in Cavaillon.

How will this project change people's lives?

Reducing the amount of effort, it takes to access drinkable water can help create new opportunities for residents as it frees up time and energy that was previously account for. Additionally, safer water supplies help facilitate healthier communities and indirectly reduces the morbidity incidence.

If your club would like to have more information about HANWASH.

Please contact; PDG Don Thomas donthomas@comcast.net



Did you know that District 6960 is a champion District helping those in Cavaillon, Haiti get clean water?

Transforming a nation: One community at a time Sustainable water & sanitation for 49,000 people in Cavillon

The commune of Cavillon is located in the southwest region of Haiti and is home to 49,000 people. It is evenly split between rural farmland and urban settings, including small villages and the town of Cavillon.

The commune is approximately five hours from the capital city Port-au-Prince.

In Cavillon reliable and safe drinking water is not readily accessible. Currently over 65% of the population lacks access to safe water and sanitation. Moreover, the region was hit by a devastating earthquake in August 2021, which has added to the challenges facing the region.



Rotarians are collaborating with regional water regulators OREPA Sud, the Mayor of Cavillon, other local authorities and beneficiaries, and three Global Grants approved by The Rotary Foundation to help work towards water security in Cavillon.



The total investment of this project is currently projected to be between \$2.0-2.5 million USD and the overarching goal is to reach 100% coverage in Cavillon within five years of partnership. So far, Rotarians have achieved many milestones including funding several "Adopt a Well" projects, developing pipeline systems for community residents to access clean water, and exploring innovative new technologies such as ground water recharge.

Project Location: Cavillon Commune
Host Club: Rotary Club of Les Cayes
International: Rotary District 6960

Initial Grant Budget: \$2.0-2.5 Mill. USD



Cavaillon Commune: Water System

What is life like in Cavaillon?

Life in Cavaillon is community oriented. The town hosts bi-weekly markets on Wednesdays and Saturdays, selling products ranging from livestock, to schoolbooks, to fresh fruit, rice, beans, salt and clothes. This market attracts many people from nearby villages and towns, as it is a primary form of income generation. Often people must walk many miles to reach the village center which is made difficult due to unkept roads. Likewise, water sources are hard to come by and require travelling far distances which occupies significant time for those in Cavaillon.



How have these projects changed people's lives?

Reducing the amount of effort, it takes to access drinkable water can help create new opportunities for residents as it frees up time and energy that was previously account for. Additionally, safer water supplies help facilitate healthier communities and indirectly reduces the morbidity incidence.

How has this system been designed?

This system has been designed based on the Commune Action Plan and working with the regional water regulator OREPA Sud. The first Global Grant in Cavaillon (#1984515) resulted in four communities being engaged under the HANWASH model, and four wells being constructed, serving approximately 1,000 people. The second Global Grant in Cavaillon (#2014851) is currently being implemented and is focused on the rehabilitation of the water supply system serving the urban population centre of Cavaillon in the commune. The third Global Grant in Cavaillon (#2233682) is focused on 9 rural villages that lack WASH services per the Commune Action Plan (Community Needs Assessment). Additional Global Grants in the future are likely and significant resources will also need to be mobilized from non-Rotary funding partners.

What is HANWASH?

HANWASH is a partnership between Rotarians and Haitian government at national & local levels. Rotarians in Haiti and globally bring their voices, raise money, and volunteer their time to support the country's institutions to reach everyone with drinking water and safe sanitation.

Rotarians, Clubs, Districts, from anywhere in the world can participate actively in this innovative and impactful program and be a part of this story! For a list of contributors and partners,

Visit www.hanwash.org/cavaillon

Your HELP is still needed!

Ongoing funding will be required to meet the vision of safe and affordable water and sanitation for all.

Grant Contacts:

Don Thomas donthomas@comcast.net

Robert Leger robertleger7020@gmail.com

Ryan Rowe ryan.rowe@hanwash.org





PILOT COMMUNES



In June 2018, the HANWASH team engaged with DINEPA to identify the communes of Cavaillon (Sud), Meillac (Nord-Est), Croix-des-Bouquets (Ouest), and Terre-Neuve (Artibonite) as the geographic areas of focus for the pilot HANWASH implementation. In August 2020, DINEPA began the review to add the communes of Léogâne (Ouest), Les Cayes (Sud), and Pignon (Nord) to the areas of focus of the pilot.

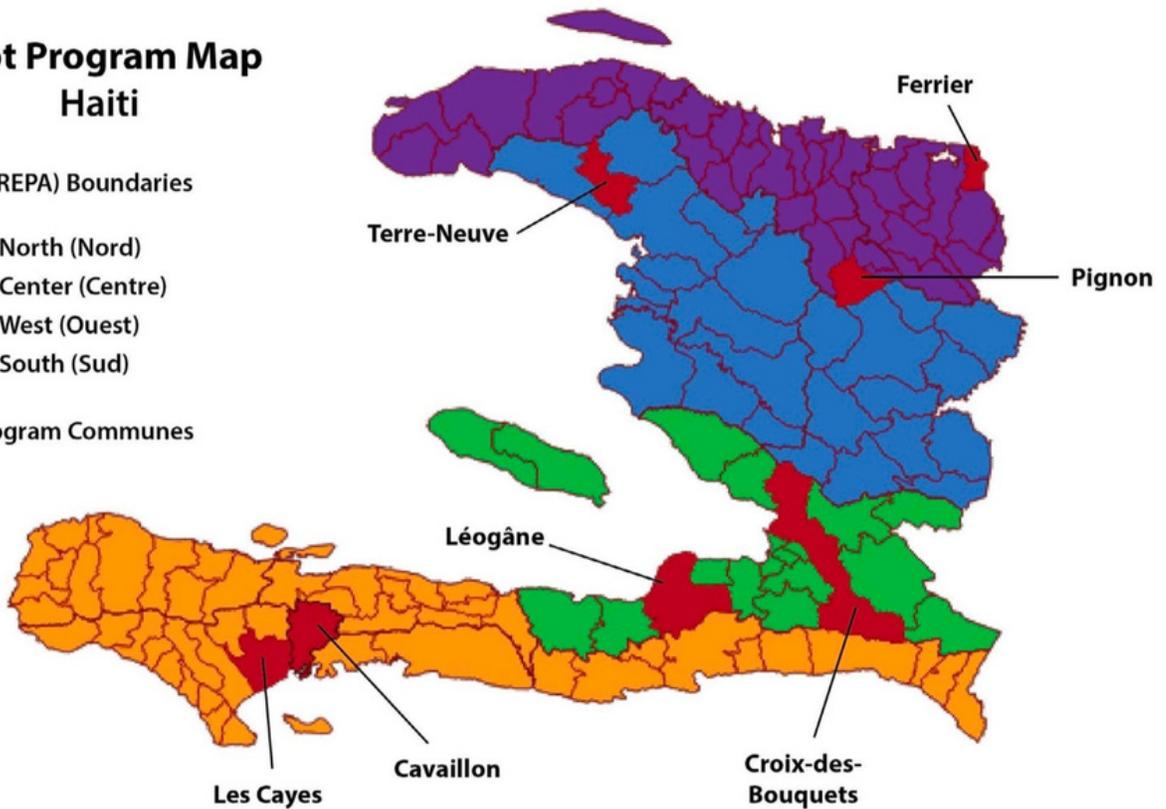
Today, HANWASH is moving forward with these communes under its mission to develop and implement business-based best practices for public and private collaborations to build capacity in local communities to deliver thoughtfully managed and sustainable clean water and sanitation to all the citizens of Haiti.

Pilot Program Map Haiti

Regional (OREPA) Boundaries

- North (Nord)
- Center (Centre)
- West (Ouest)
- South (Sud)

■ Pilot Program Communes



WANTED! A Few Good Clubs

Rotary Clubs have been involved in youth exchange since 1927. During that time, over 500,000 high school age students have participated in RYE worldwide. Youth Exchange was formally adopted as a recognized program of RI in 1974. About 1,400 American students participate each year.



RYE can be the capstone and crowning achievement of your club's youth services program. It provides promising students with life changing experiences and leadership development unlike anything else Rotary has to offer. And, it is incredibly enriching for the students who go (and come) on exchange, for the sponsoring clubs and for the host families. Like everything else worth doing, it is dependent on the time and commitment of individual Rotary Clubs.

In 2022-23, our District sponsored 5 outbound students and hosted 5 inbounds. This Rotary year, we sponsored 5 outbounds and are hosting 7 inbounds. As we look forward to 2024-25 and beyond, we are looking for a few clubs who are willing to make Rotary Youth Exchange the capstone of their youth services focus and programs.

To learn more about how your club can be part of this incredible program, please contact Mark Moody or Jerry Grandey, District Committee Chair and Co-Chair, for further information. We would be happy to discuss it with you or make a presentation for your club.

Call today!!
Mark Moody: 608-239-3805
Jerry Grandey: 310-612-9193



Rotary Club of Lakewood Ranch kicks off ninth year of Books for Kids program

The Books for Kids Kindergarten program, which helps students discover a love for reading and increases reading scores, is expanding into more Manatee and Sarasota County classrooms this school year.

The Books for Kids program is kicking off its ninth year with the School District of Manatee County. The program sends more than 100 volunteers into 10 schools in Manatee and Sarasota counties to read to more than 3,600 students on a monthly basis and distribute books to help children build personal libraries. [Read more.](#)



Kambrie Rowell, a Ballard Elementary kindergartner, loves working with her literacy mentor, Esplanade's Barbara Liodice, who volunteers for the Books for Kids Kindergarten program.

Team Up to Change Lives

The Rotary Club of Charlotte Harbor is seeking to apply for a \$30,000 Global Grant with our partner club, the Rotary Club of Kampala Kawempe in Uganda--and we need the support of other clubs in District 6960. The grant would support a roughly \$60,000, 5-year project to fight menstrual poverty in central Uganda. When Ugandan girls begin menstruation, they do not have menstrual hygienic products and often stay home from school during their period. Some drop out of school altogether because they are teased so badly by boys. Disposable products are not feasible due to cost. The cost for one girl would consume 10% of a family's monthly income. This project will teach girls to sew washable, reusable pads that will last at least 2 years. Not only will the girls be able to stay in school, but they will also learn how to sew, enabling the possibility of starting a business to support their family.

Charlotte Harbor club president Bill Stromberg presented the project at the recent District 6960 Luau. Let's make District 6960 leading supporter together.

Want to learn more? Bill would like to come to your club and discuss the project with you. Reach out to him through DACdb.



Club president Bill Stromberg and District Governor Alfred Current

Interested in an Easy Way to Participate in a Global Grant?

Here is an opportunity for your Rotary Club to help build the Park of Hope

By Read Sawczyn

The Rotary Club of Fort Myers South (RCFMS) is partnering with the Rotary Club of Cornwall Sunrise (RCCS) on a \$100,000 global grant (grant # GG2456246) to help fund construction of the Park of Hope in Cornwall, Canada. RCCS is partnering with the City of Cornwall and Rachel's Kids, an organization that serves children with life-threatening illnesses, neurodiversity, or life's challenging moments, to build the park. The total cost for the park is between \$450,000 and \$600,000.

RCCS has already raised \$27,500 and RCFMS has committed \$10,000 toward the project in hopes of raising \$100,000 for a matching global grant. More than \$269,000 has already been raised toward the total cost of the park.

Is your Rotary Club interested in participating in a Global Grant? You can join us for as little as \$1,000. We will not seek payment of funds until we are successful in obtaining the grant. If you would like more information, have questions, or your Rotary Club is willing to commit, please **email me** at rsawczyn@finemarkbank.com or call me at 813-956-1468.

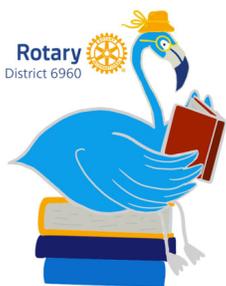


Concept photo of the all-inclusive park presented to city council.

Rotary Club of Bonita Naples Spreads Literacy with Little Libraries



A collaborative community project at the Bonita Springs YMCA has resulted in two Little Libraries that patrons of the YMCA can use for easy access to books. The YMCA serves the Bonita Springs area and is a vibrant busy community. The new Share and Learn area has 2 Little Libraries - one for adults and one for children - and an inviting reading bench. The project was made possible through a partnership between the Bonita Naples Rotary Club (who funded the project), the Bonita Springs Friends of the Library (our source for books) and the Bonita Springs YMCA. Basic Education and Literacy is one of the seven focus areas of Rotary.



ROTARY EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

DECEMBER

3RD

6 PM Steve Agius Memorial Casino Night, presented by the Rotary Club of Bonita Naples. [Details on DACddb.](#)

15TH

RYLA Delegate applications due. [Details on DACdb.](#)

18TH

7 PM District Finance Committee meeting. Open to all Rotarians. Zoom link [Details on DACdb.](#)

JANUARY

6TH

8 AM Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) Save the Date. Parts 1, 2, 3 + Graduate Courses. [Details on DACdb.](#)

13TH

6 PM Rotary Club of Bonita Beach Sunset DENIM & DIAMONDS Dinner. [Details on DCdb.](#)

Add your event to the DACdb calendar and tell Rotarians what's happening around the District!

[ADD EVENT](#)

Support Rotary Youth Programs with a Rotary License Plate!

Click on the Rotary license plate to order yours!



Get one for every vehicle and support Rotary everywhere you ride, float and roll. And you don't have to be a Rotarian to get one!

Help us hit 3,000 pre-sell vouchers!