

Unveiling the Rotary

MAGIC

Nomie Hamid | District Governor 2024-2025



Let's Nurture Nature This April - Rotary's Environmental Month

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

April marks a significant month in our Rotary calendar—Environmental Month. As we continue to embody the spirit of "Service Above Self," it's crucial to turn our attention to the pressing environmental challenges that face our planet.

This month, I encourage each of you to reflect on how we, as Rotarians, can contribute to environmental sustainability. Whether it's through organizing community clean-up days, participating in tree-planting efforts, or supporting local sustainability projects, every small action counts.

Our Rotary theme, "The Magic of Rotary," is about making meaningful changes and fostering peace through service. By taking active steps to protect and improve our environment, we contribute to a healthier, more sustainable world that benefits current and future generations.



Let's use this month to initiate or participate in projects that not only enhance our surroundings but also educate and inspire our community about the importance of environmental stewardship. Remember, the collective efforts of all Rotarians can lead to substantial positive impacts.

I look forward to hearing about the innovative ways your clubs are making a difference. Together, let's work towards a greener, more vibrant planet.

Thank you for your dedication and enthusiasm. Your efforts continue to make Rotary a powerful force for good in the world.

Warm regards,

DG Nomie

Rotary Foundation of Washington DC Awards \$96,000 to Boys and Girls Club of Greater Washington



On March 26th, the DC Rotary Club welcomed Executive Director Gabrielle Webster from the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington to their weekly meeting. Gabrielle spoke to the Club about the recent activities since last year. DC Rotary Foundation President and Club Past President Marilyn Nevy Cruz presented Gabrielle with the big check (and the real paper check) of \$96,000 for this year's donation. The funds will be used for capital improvements at the various physical facilities of the BGCW.

Rotary Brings Community Together for Urbana (MD) Park & Ride Cleanup with 35+ Volunteers

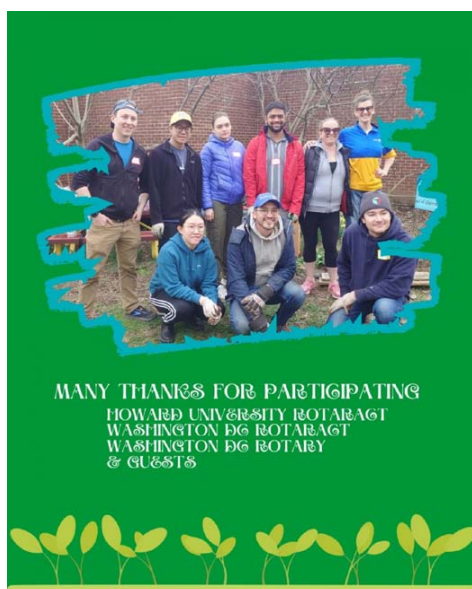
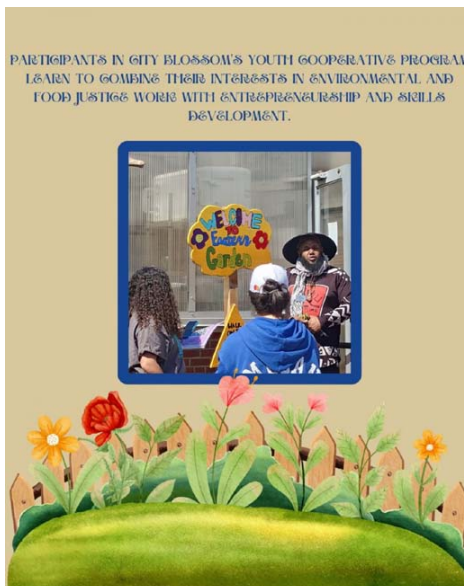
Monday, March 31, 2025



On a bright Saturday morning, the Rotary Club of Southern Frederick County rallied together with over 35 volunteers—neighbors, and students — for a successful quarterly cleanup at the Urbana Park & Ride. Armed with gloves, trash bags, and community spirit, the group collected litter, shared stories, and forged new connections. High school students earned needed service hours toward graduation, while local residents met new friends and discovered the heart of Rotary in action. The event not only beautified a key commuter space but also sparked conversations about service, belonging, and the power of showing up for your community. [Read More](#)

Service Event with City Blossoms!

On Saturday, March 22nd, the **Rotary Club of Dupont Circle** hosted a joint Service Event with **City Blossoms** in Washington, D.C. with the other DC Rotary and Rotaract Clubs in Washington, D.C. A fun time was had by all while Serving Above Self! Thank you, Dupont Circle Rotary President, Guillermo Galdamez for coordinating.



What if a simple suitcase could save lives? Parole Rotary Club has proven it can.

By Gene Deems



Imagine a world where a single suitcase filled with medical supplies can bring hope and healing to an entire community. Medicine With a Mission, a Maryland-based nonprofit, turned this vision into reality, Partnering with Parole Rotary and Rotary Clubs in District 7620 with our pilot Project C.U.R.E. Kit program, together ensured that essential medical supplies reached the most under-resourced corners of the world, transforming lives and fostering global solidarity.

[Read More](#)

March Service at Nourish Now



On Friday, March 7, many Rotarians joined together to help our community. Together, we packed dozens of bags which contained staples for the food-insecure in our community.

Nourish Now is a recipient of Rockville Rotary Foundation grants. The non-profit recovers surplus food from dedicated food donor partners including restaurants, grocers, caterers, farms, sporting venues, and more. Food is then directly donated to children, families, seniors and veterans in the need primarily in Montgomery County, MD along with the DC metro area.

March 2025 Red Line Happy Hour



Thank you to everyone that came out to the March Rotary Red Line Happy Hour.
Thank you to the **Rotary Club of Dupont Circle** for hosting us!

Disaster Update – Training Opportunity for Volunteers

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, our international partners (Disaster Aid International and Disaster Aid Australia) are getting organized to help the victims of a strong 7.8 earthquake in Myanmar (aka Burma) and Thailand. To support such relief work, money and supplies are always needed, and we request that you and your club consider donating money to DAUSA. Most

importantly, we need volunteers to join our domestic DART and international DART (Disaster Aid Response Team). We will hold a training session for volunteers in April-May time frame (date TBD). If you are interested, please contact: Paul Mahata (Pmahata@verizon.net)

DART Training:

Natural disasters locally, nationally and internationally require strong response and volunteer engagement. Flash flooding and high wind events such as tornadoes are impacting local communities and have become the norm. You can prepare yourself for such events and also join our cadre of DAUSA volunteers to help others in need. The training program will be a fast-moving and educational view of disaster response in the USA and abroad. You will learn: how to volunteer, discover the role a volunteer plays at a disaster site, find out what volunteers should wear and what personal safety equipment is essential, and lastly understand your impact as a volunteer on helping families and communities recovering from a natural disaster.



In order for us to continue this type of training and disaster relief work now and in the coming months, we encourage the Rotary clubs, and individual Rotarians and Rotaractors to consider donating money to DAUSA (a 501-c-3 organization, co-founded by PDG Bob Grill). Please visit the following website for online donation: www.disasteraidusa.org Alternately, you may consider sending checks to: Disaster Aid USA, 9817 Lanham Severn Road, Lanham MD 20706. For any questions on our initiatives, please feel free to contact Co-Chairs: Paul Mahata (Pmahata@verizon.net) and Steve Kemp (Stevekemp77@gmail.com).

Rotary Club of Capitol Hill

Several members of the Rotary Club of Capitol Hill and a couple friends gathered for their monthly social event yesterday, March 30th - taking a walk among the very popular cherry blossoms around the Tidal Basin. What a fun social event indeed!





District 7610 Governor Spoke at Columbia-Patuxent Rotary on Human Trafficking and Sex Trafficking



Amelia Stansell

On March 21, 2025, Linda Ostovitz introduced Amelia Stansell, District Governor for Rotary District 7610, who's a leader in the Rotary Action Group Against Slavery (RAGAS) and has spoken about Human Trafficking and Sex Trafficking at three Rotary International conventions. She is vice chair on the RAGAS Global Board of Directors and is the RAGAS State Coordinator for Virginia. She's passionate about ending the slavery of human trafficking.

Amelia said human trafficking is a massive, global problem. "There 49.6 million people enslaved in human trafficking worldwide, including labor trafficking, sex trafficking, child soldiering and child marriage, even organ harvesting and trafficking, all horrific ways that we as humans exploit other humans for money," Amelia explained. "It's a \$150 billion a year industry. This is the second-largest criminal enterprise globally, closely connected with the number one, which, as you can imagine, is drug trafficking."

She offered some other grim statistics. Forty percent of child sex trafficking cases are familial. One in five children will be approached by a trafficker online at some point. Both girls and boys are sex trafficking victims. One in four girls and one in seven boys will be sexually abused before they're 18. One in three runaway teens in America will be approached by an exploiter in the first 36 hours. "These kids are going to be approached in their most vulnerable moments, and the traffickers are able to quickly snap them up," Amelia said. "The average age of a sex trafficking victim in the US is 12 to 14 years old. About 1.3 million kids run away each year."

[Read More](#)

Happy 13th Anniversary Dupont Rotary!

Happy 13th Birthday to the Rotary Club of Dupont Circle!

On March 27th, the Dupont Rotary Club celebrated their 13th Birthday at the March 2025 Red Line Happy Hour at the King Street Oyster Bar. Thank you to everyone who attended and participated in the festivities.



Rotary Club of Frederick's Quiet Hero Award

The Rotary Club of Frederick recently presented longtime member David Carmack with the club's first Quiet Hero Award. The award showcases members whose contributions to Rotary's mission are significant but often behind-the-scenes. Over the years, Carmack has served as club president several times, chaired the Rotary Foundation Scholarship and Group Exchange committees, and volunteered frequently in club service positions. Due to his sustained and generous support of the Rotary Foundation, Carmack is also a member of the Paul Harris Society. *[From the Frederick News-Post, March 15, 2025]*



Rotary Club of Washington Global



Rotary Club of Washington Global nominated an aspiring leader Julieta Güiza Enciso to participate in [#RYLA](#) event organized by [Rotary District 7620](#). [Read](#) the interview to learn more!

Rotary: A Hidden Gem in Your Job Search Toolkit

By *The Rotary Club of Olney*

Looking for a job can be a daunting task. Networking is often touted as the key but knowing *where* to network effectively can be a challenge. While online platforms and industry events are valuable, one often overlooked resource is Rotary International. Beyond its reputation for community service, Rotary offers a unique and powerful network that can significantly boost your job search.

How Rotary Can Open Doors:

Rotary clubs are comprised of professionals from a wide range of industries and backgrounds. This diverse membership creates a fertile ground for networking opportunities. Here's how joining Rotary can be a game-changer in your job hunt:

- **Expanding Your Network Exponentially:** Rotary meetings and events provide a structured environment to connect with established professionals. You'll meet people you wouldn't normally encounter, expanding your network far beyond your immediate circle. These connections can lead to informational interviews, mentorship opportunities, and even job leads.
- **Gaining Insider Knowledge:** Rotarians are often deeply involved in their local business communities. They possess valuable insights into industry trends, upcoming projects, and unadvertised job openings. Connecting with them can provide you with an edge in the job market.
- **Developing Essential Skills:** Rotary offers opportunities to develop and hone skills crucial for career success. Participating in club projects can enhance your leadership, communication, and teamwork abilities – all highly valued by employers. Presenting to the club, organizing events, and leading committees can build your confidence and polish your professional presence.

[Read More](#)

The Rotary Club of Annapolis is Accepting Applications for Foundation Grants Program

The Rotary Club of Annapolis is pleased to announce that grant applications are being accepted for the club's Foundation Grants program. Applications are being accepted on-line from March 1 – April 30, 2025, from local 501c3 charitable organizations.

"Our Rotary Foundation has reached out to many diverse 501c3 organizations and grant funds have positively changed so many peoples' lives in Annapolis and Anne Arundel County", said Cynthia Danjczek, Rotary Club of Annapolis Foundation Grants chair. "The awardees give hope, support and a positive outlook for the people they serve. The Rotary Club of Annapolis is pleased that our Foundation will continue to support local organizations that make our community stronger".

Applications will be reviewed promptly, and awardees will be announced in late-Spring. To access the grant application and learn more about the grants program, please visit www.annapolisrotary.org/annapolisrotaryfoundation. [Read More](#)

DisCon 2025 House of Friendship

House of Friendship EXPO RESERVE YOUR TABLE TODAY!

 \$50 | Clubs & Non-Profits
\$100 | Businesses

Rotary  Districts 7610 & 7620 **DISCON 2025**

Secure your spot at the Joint [2025 Rotary District 7610 & 7620 Joint District Conference](#)'s House of Friendship! Showcase your products, projects, or passions at this premier event in Washington, DC from October 3-5, 2025. Tables are available for clubs, non-profits, and for-profit businesses.

Don't miss this opportunity to connect and network. Reserve your table today by visiting: <https://Registrations.DACdb.com/Register/index.cfm?EventID=77819787>

Washington, D.C. Area 7 Celebrates World Rotaract Week!

On Tuesday, March 11th, the Rotary Club of Dupont Circle celebrated World Rotaract Week with their very own Rotaract Club, [@hurotaract](#). They invited their sponsoring Howard University Rotaract Club as their guest speaker and heard more about their programs, service projects, etc. on and off campus this school year.



Rotaract Club of Howard University

Join us virtually for this week's meeting.

March 11, 7:00pm

Zoom

Rotary 
Dupont Circle
Washington, DC

On Wednesday, March 12th, the Rotary Club of Washington, D.C. celebrated World Rotaract Week with one of their very own Rotaract Clubs, @[rotaractclubofwashingtondc](#). They invited one of their sponsoring clubs, the Rotaract Club of Washington, D.C. to take over their meeting and serve as their guest speaker!



The future of Rotary is in great hands! A special treat, the DC Rotary Club hosted 8 out of the 11 RYLA students they sponsored this year that same day so they can hear all about the Rotaract Program!



APR - Rotaract Club of Washington, D.C.



The Rotaract Club of Washington, D.C. had an awesome two club meetings and several service events these past two months. Great work DC Rotaract team!



Food Justice DMV Service Event



Rotaract Club of Georgetown University

On March 23rd, the Georgetown Rotaract Club had a great time at Grace's Table helping to serve food so thank you to everyone that came and we can't wait to see you all at our next meeting.





Here are some pictures from their February 5th meeting, thank you to all that attended and we look forward to seeing you at our next project! We were happy to work with FAPAC through making Valentine's Day cards.



Support Educating Children in Ethiopia with Inspire Ethiopia's Generous Matching Grant Opportunity

By Todd A Nitkin

I am writing about *Inspire Ethiopia*, a special endeavor being undertaken by the Rotary Club of Potomac-Bethesda to give children in rural Ethiopia access to education. I'm reaching out with a request to help us finish what we started — and take advantage of a remarkable opportunity that has been presented to us!



The next phase of construction at the Wadeye primary and secondary schools is the construction of the teacher's residence (14 residential rooms and meeting/dining/recreation hall) and providing the other essential items for the upcoming school year (more computers with embedded educational software, a photocopier, printer/scanners, and Wi-Fi), which will cost a total of \$88,000.00 USD. Most recently, the

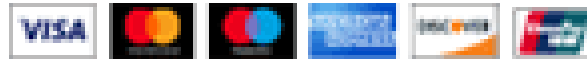
Rotary Club of Potomac-Bethesda generously granted \$5000 toward the project through our club's Rotary Foundation. Additionally, we are attempting to collect as much as possible through individual contributions. Regarding collecting individual contributions, we have some exciting news: A generous private donor has stepped

up and found a way to match our contributions, but only if we act immediately. That means your contribution now has double the power.

If we can raise as much as possible, we have the opportunity of doubling all contributions toward this vital work. Your generous contributions will allow work to begin as soon as possible ensuring the residence is ready for the start of the school year in September, as requested by the Ministry of Education. It will also help us attract and retain excellent teachers over the course of the summer for the fall.

This is a unique chance to **double our impact** — and help bring high-quality education to where it's needed most.

Donate



Please consider making a pledge today by contacting our club's Treasurer, Lou Bartolo, at tonylou2@hotmail.com.

Thank you again for your continued support and generosity.

Have a beautiful day!

Todd

Dr. Todd A. Nitkin, DPM, FACFAS, MPH

Past President, the Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club

APR - Mid-Atlantic Rotary Leadership Institute Board of Directors

We are proud to announce the addition of our very own **District 7620 Lt. Governor Marilyn Nevy Cruz** (Washington, D.C.) to the Board of Directors of the [Mid-Atlantic Rotary Leadership Institute \(MARLI\)](#). Please join us in congratulating Marilyn!

Mid Atlantic RLI
is happy to announce

Marilyn Nevy Cruz
been chosen as a
member of the
Board of Directors.

A composite image featuring a portrait of Marilyn Nevy Cruz, a woman with blonde hair wearing a dark blue blazer, and the circular logo of the Mid-Atlantic Rotary Leadership Institute (MARLI). The logo contains a globe and the text 'THE ROTARY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE'.

2025-26 District Grant Applications Are OPEN!

Got a great idea for a community project? **Now's your chance to make it happen!**



The window for **District 7620 Grant Applications** is officially open from **March 1st through May 31st, 2025**. These **matching District Designated Funds (DDF)** grants are perfect for short-term, high-impact **humanitarian projects**—whether it's funding **small capital items, startup initiatives, or services** that bring **direct, tangible benefits** to communities both locally and globally.

What You Need to Know:
Competitive Grants – Funding is awarded based on merit!

Deadline to Complete Projects – May 31, 2026.

Submit Electronically – Applications accepted only via the DACdb Grants Module.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) - available for Rotary Club signatures on the District website under the Foundation tab.

[Read More](#)

Celebrating 50 years of Rotary Youth Exchange!

In 2025, we mark 50 years of Rotary Youth Exchange as an official program of Rotary International. Over the past five decades, students have experienced new cultures, developed lasting friendships, and become global citizens.

If you've volunteered to support Rotary Youth Exchange in your club or district, you've likely seen the tremendous effort it takes to facilitate the program. Providing a valuable, positive experience for students hosted abroad by Rotary members and nonmembers requires substantial time and effort from both the students and the volunteers.

What does that mean on a global scale? Well, on average since 2018, it takes 25,000 volunteers to support 7,500 exchange students each year.

If you want to know more, read the blog post about celebrating 50 years of service in Rotary Youth Exchange.

[READ MORE](#)



The Best Video award goes to...



The Interact Club of Khensani's Collection, South Africa, was named "Best Video" in the 2024 [Interact Awards](#)!

This year, over 400 Interact clubs across the world submitted videos, photos, and essays showcasing their favorite service project from start to finish.

[Watch the video](#) submitted by the Interact Club of Khensani's Collection to learn how they have transformed their community by repurposing 40 tons of plastic waste into 70,000 ecobricks to build structures at a local school.

Rotary Peace Fellowship - Apply Today!

Do you know a peacebuilder in your community who is highly motivated and effective at creating positive social change? Make them aware of the Rotary Peace Fellowship opportunity!

Rotary looks for candidates working across a wide range of career fields who are pursuing initiatives, solutions, and skills that create more peaceful communities and uplift vulnerable populations. Accepting applications through 15 May

<https://on.rotary.org/3J6sYLP>



Connect with RI on WhatsApp



Rotary International 
Channel | 5.9K followers

Rotary now has a WhatsApp channel! It offers updates on exciting Rotary projects, useful news, and plenty of fun. We can't wait to connect with you there! The channel is in English only for now. Follow Rotary's [WhatsApp channel](#) by selecting **Follow** in the upper-right corner of your screen. To read channel posts in the future, select **Updates** or **Channels** in the menu bar.

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, Chair

Sean McAlister, PDG, District Public Image Chair

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