

Unveiling the Rotary

MAGIC

Nomie Hamid | District Governor 2024-2025



Celebrating Rotary Youth Service Month – Investing in Our Future

Dear Rotarians,

May is Rotary Youth Service Month—a time when we shine a spotlight on one of the most important and inspiring parts of our mission: empowering young people to become the leaders and changemakers of tomorrow.

Rotary's commitment to youth is more than just programs—it's a philosophy rooted in Service Above Self. Through initiatives like Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), Interact, Rotaract, Youth Exchange, and Youth Peace Fellowships, we give young people the tools, platforms, and support they need to lead with courage, compassion, and creativity.

Here in District 7620, we've seen firsthand how investing in youth transforms lives. Whether it's the 104 students who attended our joint RYLA, the Rotaractors stepping into leadership roles across our district, or the students learning peacebuilding and conflict resolution at an early age—we are making a difference.

But we must keep going.

This month, I ask every club to consider

- Can we support or start a local Interact or Rotaract club?
- Can we sponsor a student for RYLA or Youth Exchange?
- Can we mentor a young person, invite them to a meeting, or involve them in a service project?

Let us be intentional in our outreach to youth. Let's give them not just a seat at the table, but a voice in the conversation.

The future of Rotary—and the world—depends on the leaders we inspire today. Thank you for your continued dedication to empowering the next generation.

Yours in Rotary Service,

Nomie Hamid



Celebrate Youth Service Month

May is Youth Service Month — a time dedicated to recognizing the local and global impact of the



350,000+ young people engaged in Rotary's youth programs worldwide. Join us in honoring Rotary's young leaders by:

Following
[@RotaryYoungLeaders](#)
on Instagram

This new account showcases the experiences of Rotary's youth program participants! Follow for news and updates about [Interact](#), [Rotary Youth Leadership Awards \(RYLA\)](#), and [Rotary Youth Exchange](#). Throughout May, you'll find special content related to Youth

Service Month.

Participating in a webinar about young leaders

Register for the webinar, Youth Service Month: Funding, Elevating, and Integrating Young Leaders, to learn directly from members of Rotary's Youth Advisory Council about:

- How young people receive support and funding within Rotary
- How Rotarians are champions for young people and amplify youth perspectives
- How Rotary events can foster meaningful collaboration across generations

[Register to attend](#) the webinar, being held Wednesday, 14 May, at 09:00 Chicago time (UTC-5).

The webinar will be available in English, French, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish. Everyone who registers will receive a recording of the event.

[REGISTER FOR THE WEBINAR](#)

Register for the Youth Service Month webinar!

**Wednesday, May 14 at
9:00 AM Chicago time
(UTC-5)**

May is Youth Service Month. Celebrate with a special webinar featuring members of the Rotary Youth Advisory Council! They will share key insights from their districts and communities on:

- The qualities of Rotarian youth champions and how they amplify youth voices.
- How young people receive support and funding within

FUNDING, ELEVATING, AND INTEGRATING YOUNG LEADERS IN ROTARY



HIYA JAIN
India



MAYA POVHE
Canada



**CALEB HERNANDEZ
CORTES**
Mexico



DAVID KAMAU
Kenya



CLAIRE CHANG
United States



VITOR JOVENTINO
Brazil



MARIANA CHAVES
Brazil

Rotary.

- How Rotary events can foster meaningful intergenerational collaboration.

The webinar will be available in English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, and Italian. Can't attend live? Register to receive the recording!

[Register Here](#)

Charlotte Hall Rotary Club 110th Global Grant - India and Ghana

CHARLOTTE HALL INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

12 COUNTRYS

114 PROJECTS

SERVICE WORTH \$11,774,000

PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION APROX \$900,000

1. Health Projects: Nigeria, India
2. Women & Child Health: Uganda, India
3. Education: Cambodia, Kenya, India
4. Disaster Projects: Italy, India
5. Water & Sanitation: Ghana, Cameroon, Guatemala, Vietnam, Nepal

By Dr. Ila Shah

On February 20, 2025, the Charlotte Hall Rotary Club received approval for two new Global Grants which makes

a total of 110 grants!

Sixty boreholes and twelve electric pumps will be provided. 566 toilets and a toilet block of 12 toilets in a high school will be provided. Charlotte Hall Rotary Club contributed \$15,000 and 36 other clubs and 11 other districts contributed \$59,028.

Another Global Grant totaling \$89,000 was for establishing a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in Kem Hospital Puna. Charlotte Hall Rotary contributed \$14,700 and three other districts and three other clubs contributed.

Polio Reconstructive Surgery: TOTAL 2100 children



Relief and rehabilitation of disabled people: 1800 lives supported





women's & Child Health

[Read More](#)

DC Rotary Foundation Awards \$200,000 in Community Grants!



We are very pleased to announce that the DC Rotary Club's and Foundation's Boards at their April meetings have adopted the recommendations of the Community Service Grants Committee and awarded a total of **\$200,000** in grants to worthy non-profits serving the DMV. We were able to provide funding to 32 different

organizations this year!

Special Project Grants in the amount of \$20,000 each (for a total of \$80,000) were granted to the following four organizations:

Brem Foundation to Defeat Breast Cancer Food Rescue US – DC

Everyone Home DC

The Salvation Army National Capital Area

There were nineteen organizations which were granted a \$5,000 Community Service Grant and nine organizations granted a partial grant. These 28 organizations (and amounts for the partial grants) are as follows:

Full \$5,000 Grants (19 Organizations)

- An Open Book Foundation
- Central American Resource
- Open Goal Project
- Peace of Mind Inc.
- Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington

- Center (CARECEN)
- Chesapeake Bay Outward Bound School
- Christ House
- City Blossoms
- CitySwing Foundation
- DC Youth Orchestra Program (DCYOP)
- Dumbarton Arts & Education
- First Tee
- Food Justice DMV
- Free Minds Book Club & Writing Workshop
- Liberty's Promise
- Mary House, Inc.
- Multicultural Career Intern Program (MCIP)

- Shout Mouse Press
- So What Else

Partial Grants (9 Organizations)

- Comfort Cases, Inc. (\$4,500)
- YMCA of Metropolitan Washington (\$4,000)
- The VIVA School of Dance (\$2,500)
- DowntownDC Foundation (\$2,500)
- Light the Way Foundation (\$2,500)
- The PEN/Faulkner Foundation (\$2,500)
- The Theatre Lab School of the Dramatic Arts (\$2,500)
- Washington DC Table Tennis Academy (\$2,500)
- Aaliyah in Action (\$1,500)

[Read More](#)

Rotary Club of Annapolis Raises \$108,000 for Marshall Hope

ANNAPOLIS, MD – The Rotary Club of Annapolis was pleased to welcome Amy Marshall, founder of Marshall Hope Corporation, at their luncheon on April 3, 2025, at the Annapolis Yacht Club. The club presented Ms. Marshall with a check for \$108,000, which is the proceeds from the 2025 Black Tie & Diamonds Gala. The annual gala was held on March 1, 2025, with 240 guests in attendance at the Graduate Annapolis Hotel. [Read More](#)



Red Line Happy Hour - April 2025

Thank you to the **Rotary Club of Gaithersburg** for hosting their first Red Line Happy Hour on Tuesday, April 29th. The venue was great, Rotarians showed up from all over our



district, but the camaraderie and conversations were even better. AG Hande Apaydin even inducted their newest member, Frankie, a World Bank retiree of 35 years of service! Rotary District 7620 Rotarians are People of Action through Service Above Self.



Carroll Creek Rotarian Selected as Rotary International Public Image Coordinator

Past Rotary Club of Carroll Creek President Ashley Waters recently attended the Global Support Seminar at Rotary International HQ—joining ~50 Rotarians from around the world being trained as newly appointed Regional Leaders. Starting July 1, 2025, Ashley will take on the role of Rotary Public Image Coordinator for Zone 33/Region 40 through June 30, 2028! We couldn't be prouder to see her representing RCCC on the global stage. She's also currently serving as Assistant Governor for Area 5, District 7620, a role she'll hold through June 2026.



2025 Health Care Heroes Award, Nurse of the Year in Maryland

The Maryland Daily Record has announced their Health Care Heroes for 2025 and a Potomac-Bethesda Rotarian has been selected as "Nurse of the Year." Maryland Nurses Association (MNA) President Lou J. Bartolo, DNP, MSN, RN, has been selected by The Daily Record. Congratulations to Lou Bartolo, Treasurer, Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club on this award!



As home to several renowned medical and federal institutions, Maryland is a national leader in health care research and development. The Daily Record's Health Care Heroes Awards honor those individuals and organizations who have made an impact on the quality of health care within the state. The winners were selected by the publisher and editors of The Daily Record.

"Dr. Bartolo is an outstanding registered nurse who exceeds in his leadership abilities within the MNA and the nursing profession. He has an incredible impact on the MNA, our healthcare system, our patients, and our communities. His dedication and commitment to excellence are truly remarkable. He exemplifies professionalism by being an ambassador for Maryland nursing nationally and locally.

"Dr. Bartolo is an extraordinary champion for educating Maryland nurses and healthcare professionals on structural racism. The American Nurses Association (ANA) awarded him a grant to develop training materials and advocacy work to pursue his goal. Dr. Bartolo's proposal was one of the eight awarded among all applicants throughout the United States. He is the reason there is House Bill 0783/Senate Bill 0458 titled "Health Occupations—Structural Racism Training," which proposes changes to the training requirements for health care professionals in Maryland.

Key provisions include:

- Requiring applicants for renewal of certain licenses and certificates to attest that they have completed an implicit bias and structural racism training program approved by the Cultural and Linguistic Health Care Professional Competency Program;
- Expanding the definition of "implicit bias" to include structural racism; and,
- Ensuring that the training programs are recognized by health occupations boards or accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education." [Read More](#)

North Bethesda Rotary Club's 2025 Professional Service Award

The Rotary Club of North Bethesda is proud to announce Geoffrey Thomas as the recipient of its 2025 Professional Service Award, an honor that recognizes exemplary professional achievement and community service in alignment with Rotary International's Four-Way Test. This prestigious award recognizes individuals who in their professional endeavors promote high ethical standards, foster goodwill, and enhance the quality of community life.

The Club conducted a wide-ranging search for candidates for the Award. It assumed that the quality of community life can be enhanced through a wide range of activity, such as journalism, education, the arts, healthcare, business, religion, and charitable work. The Club did not favor any particular lane of service.

What especially recommended Geoffrey Thomas to the Club is his long and dedicated service to the Boy Scouts of America, which has always nurtured personal virtues indispensable to good relations in the community. Thomas has shown a strong commitment to building character and unity in our community by nurturing in young people the kind of character traits that make them self-reliant, dependable, confident, and resourceful but also modest and responsible members of society. The Boy Scouts standards of personal conduct overlap remarkably with the Rotary Four-Way-Test. As one member of the search committee put it, "Thomas has been training future Rotarians."

[Read More](#)



DC Rotary Club's Pollinator Garden Planted on National Mall

The **Rotary Club of Washington, D.C.** got a bit greener on Friday, April 25th, when DC Rotarians and the National Park Service (NPS) installed its long-awaited Rotary Pollinator Garden at the World War II Memorial on the Mall. The new Rotary pollinator garden will enhance the landscape and provide habitat for bees and other wildlife. The NPS invited about a dozen volunteers from the Northrop Grumman and Friends of the National Mall to help with the planting. It was filmed by NBC-4 on April 25th and **Past President Bill Dent** was interviewed on camera and gave a history of the DC Rotary Club Peter Gilsey Trees for the Capital program and our



partnership with the National Park Service. **DC Rotary member Dan Mitrovich** helped with media.



The NPS hired a professional landscaper to design and plot out the planting and chose an amazing 716 native shrubs, trees, perennials, ornamental grasses, and bulbs -- all of which Rotarians and NPS volunteers planted today. **DC Rotary members May and Sam** teamed up to plant the biggest shrubs -- Henry's Garnet Sweetspire and Gro-Low Fragrant Sumac.

Why Pollinators? [Read More](#)

Washington, D.C. (Area 7) DG Visit

A good time was had by all at the Washington, D.C. (Area 7) [Rotary District 7620](#) DG [Nomie Hamid](#) visit on Sunday, April 27th. We had members from 6 out of 8 Rotary and Rotaract Clubs in attendance. It was truly an afternoon filled with fellowship and fun. Thank you to [DC Rotary Club](#) member **Frank Gamez** for the venue space and Congratulations to all the Rotarians that received Governor Citations this year.



District Governor Citation Recipients





Disaster Update – Getting Ready for the Hurricane Season

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 getting ready for the Hurricane season. Over a dozen trailers equipped with emergency equipment and tools (such as personal protective equipment, chain saws, generators, water pumps, wheel barrels, shovels, rakes, hand tools, etc.) are pre-positioned around the USA to handle faster deployment of volunteers, after a Hurricane strikes any part of the country. To support such relief work, money and supplies are always needed; and we request that you and your club consider donating money to DAUSA.



Process of Deployment: When Disaster strikes, Disaster Aid USA and the District Disaster Committee respond in a timely manner. The Scouting Team and Rescue Boat crew deploy during the very first phase. Following that other teams deploy when the Scouting Team calls for help in aiding the survivors who are left with unprecedented losses of their homes and belongings due to high wind, rain and/or flooding. Typically, volunteers (aka Muckers and Gutters) go to clean out damaged homes. Water is usually pumped out of flooded homes. All water damaged articles are then removed from the flooded homes (e.g., furniture, clothes, and appliances). Water-soaked drywall is typically removed 2 feet above water marks, and total removal of drywall is sometimes done, including insulation. To dry out the homes, numerous floor fans and large 36-inch high-velocity fans along with dehumidifiers are used. DAUSA has a very special trailer which can dry out a home within 24 hours. This trailer has a furnace back-up that blows super-heated air. In case there is roof damage DAUSA team provides tarp over the roof as temporary measure. In addition, DAUSA has a Backhoe/front-end loader, stationed in Louisiana ready for use for lifting or moving fallen trees and for taking logs and debris to the curbside for pickup. So, we are ready for the upcoming Hurricane season.

[Read More](#)

Rotary Club of Dupont Circle - Earth Day 2025

When you say Earth Day, we say Clean Up. Our members spent some time with the @anacostiaaws giving back to our community and the Earth. #dupontrotary #serviceaboveself #rotary7620



Global Grant Scholar Selected - Eric Koch (Washington DC Rotary Club)



Eric Koch was selected by the District Global Grant Scholarship Committee on March 29 for the \$30,000 scholarship. Mr. Koch will be attending the University of Edinburgh's MSc in Cognitive Science program in the fall. Mr. Koch will focus on Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention by studying ethical artificial intelligence and leverage it to proactively prevent conflicts. He aspires to transition from working in defense technology to developing "peace" technology. Mr. Koch will be in the Washington DC area from April 15 - May 2 and from July 21 - August 29. Please email District Global Grant Scholarship

Chair, Jennifer Hara at hara128@hotmail.com if you are interested in meeting with Mr. Koch or having him come speak to your club.

Rotary Club of Capitol Hill

Thank to all the Rotary Club of Capitol Hill - Washington, DC members who were able to attend April 22nd's fellowship event in honor of Earth Day 2025.



From club member Stephen Padre: Look what I stumbled upon a couple of weeks ago when I was on a road trip with a stop in Cleveland for my kids' spring break! This was just across the street from the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. It was a tiny Hall of Fame for the father of the Rotary Foundation!



Rotaract Club of Georgetown University

Georgetown University Rotaract **President Reese Oakes** was given the Outstanding First Year Student Award on April 23rd from the Saxa Awards from CSE. We thank our Rotarians for their involvement and this new opportunity could not have been possible without your support! Let's keep the success coming Rotaract!



On Friday, May 2nd, Georgetown University Rotaract was able to help deliver dictionaries to the Hyde-Addison Elementary School for the Rotary of DC mission to deliver dictionaries to all the 3rd graders in DC. Thank you to everyone who helped! It's been a lovely semester of service and we'll see you all next year!



Rotaract Club of Washington, D.C.

Thank you all for coming out to April's monthly service, social and club meeting! I hope you all had a good time, and we're looking forward to seeing you next month!!





INDIA TRIP - 2026



You are invited to join a fun-filled group tour of eastern India. In Feb 2026, Paul Mahata of Mt Airy Club (in coordination with the district) is organizing an India trip for interested Rotarians and Rotaractors and their guests. The details of the trip are provided below. See also the attached Flyer with pictures. For further information, contact: Paul Mahata at Rotary Club of Mt Airy, Pmahata@verizon.net Tel: 301-275-9730.

TRIP DETAILS:

- Visiting three Rotary global grant project sites in Purulia, India. These projects were supported by 23 Rotary clubs of district 7620.
- Attending the opening of a Rotary library, jointly operated by Purulia Rotary club and a local Trust.
- Going on a special tour of eastern India which includes:
 - Kolkata (Calcutta) and its impressive monuments (such as Victoria Memorial)
 - Sundarbans Tiger Reserve (home of Royal Bengal Tigers), and
 - Darjeeling tea gardens in the slopes of the Himalayan Range
- Other Options being considered: a) tour opportunities to other parts of India, and b) vaccinating children on Polio Vaccine Day

Expected cost for this fun-filled trip is \$2,500/person, including air fare.

A similar group tour of India was organized in 2020, and it was a grand success.

Five Rotarians had joined in to visit northern India's "Golden Triangle".

Commitment window to make the India trip-2026 closes by May 16, 2025.

Unlock the potential of your young leaders

Do you remember your first Rotary event — the inspiration, the opportunities, the excitement? Invite the young leaders you work with to be inspired at Rotary events. Unlock their true potential with leadership and skill-building activities to enhance their engagement in Rotary.



The RI Board of Directors is encouraging clubs and districts to support the attendance of young leaders at local, district, regional, and international Rotary conferences. [Read the Board decision](#) and think about how to do this with Interactors, Rotary Youth Exchange students, RYLA participants, and alumni in your club or district. If you have questions, write to youngleaders@rotary.org.

There are so many examples of how young people feel more connected after taking part in a Rotary event. Kevin Gomes is a Youth Exchange student who had the opportunity to attend and co-host the Youth Exchange Officers Pre-convention in Singapore. Making connections at this event strengthened his understanding of Rotary and reinforced his belief in the program and its ability to create a better world.

[Learn more about Kevin's experiences.](#)

40 years since Rotary International launched the PolioPlus program

This year marks 40 years since Rotary International launched the PolioPlus programme, the first and largest internationally coordinated public health initiative, which saw the beginning of a global effort to eradicate polio through mass vaccination.

The message was clear from the recent #EndPolioNow meeting at the Palace Westminster, attended by #RotaryInternational President, Stephanie Urchick, that we have come this far, we must not turn back now. Find out more in the latest edition of Rotary Digital:

<https://magazine.rotarygbi.org/end-polio-now-london>

#EndPolioNow #PublicHealthInitiative #GlobalHealth #EradicatePolio #RotaryClub

Final Reports for District Grants are due by 15 May 2025!



All Final Reports for 2024-25 District community grants are due 15 May. Please submit them in DACdb with supporting documentation.

Per Rotary's Grant Terms and Conditions, an acceptable Final Report must include:

1. **Project Impact** – Describe how the project advanced the goals of the selected area(s) of focus. Be sure to include the **number of beneficiaries** reached.
2. **Objectives & Outcomes** – Provide a summary of how the project met the specific objectives outlined in your grant application, the metrics you used, and any data collected.
3. **Sustainability** – Explain how the results of the project will be sustained over time.
4. **Collaboration** – Outline the roles of host and international partners, as well as any cooperating organizations.
5. **Financial Report** – Submit a detailed account of all expenditures. **Upload invoices dated after 1 July** that reflect spending consistent with the approved budget (or as close to the full grant amount as possible).

We recognize that projects may have encountered delays or needed adjustments. The Grants Committee will accept deviations from the original scope or budget as long as they align with the project's overall purpose. Please include a brief explanation of any changes made.

Submission Process:

- Final Reports must be submitted via DACdb.
- Some fields will autofill based on your original application; please review and **update them with what actually occurred**.

- Upload **supporting documentation** to help the Grants Committee verify completion and compliance with the grant requirements.

Once your report is reviewed and approved, the remaining 50% of awarded DDF funds will be released. The earlier you submit and receive approval, the sooner the balance will be disbursed.

For help with DACdb (adding signatories, uploading documents, etc.), refer to DACdb Support. If you have questions about the report content or need feedback, email one of the Grants Committee Members: Mimi Kanda mk8601@aol.com, Phil Reynolds philreynolds60@hotmail.com, Linda Lymas lindalymas@aol.com, Patsy Ezell pezell@umd.edu, Daniel Fisher Daniel@solveitgroup.com or B.J. Chamberlain-Skinner bjchamberlain@counsellor.com

We look forward to learning about the meaningful work your Rotary Club has accomplished!

We Need Your Club's Story for the Newsletter - How to Submit

We are now using the EZstory feature in DACdb for submissions.

- [Overview of Process](#)
- [Video Walkthrough](#)

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