

**Oh, my goodness!**

By Lynn Theresa O'Connor

There's a lot going on in this Digest!!!! Can you tell that it's Foundation Month?! There are articles on what clubs are doing with District Grants; how to maximize your giving, what's going on with polio, and peacebuilding with The Rotary Foundation, in addition to articles about other things Rotary! Get yourself a cup of tea, coffee, or wine and settle in for some fun reading.

**District Governor Update for December 2024**

By Lorne Westnedge on Saturday, November 30, 2024



We've had a busy month, and are preparing for more in the month of December. We have completed over half of our club visits, and will be visiting most of the rest of the District 5080 Rotary clubs over the next 2 months. This has been a great joy and a wonderful learning experience for Dorothy and me.

For Presidents-Elect, your invitation to register for PEELS (President-Elects Learning

Seminar) will be arriving in your in-box very soon. I am concerned to see that there are still 18 clubs who don't have a PE named in DACdb. In some cases, the current president may be leading their club for a 2nd year, and the DACdb site simply needs to be updated. I know the Assitant Governors are working on this issue, but the success of your club depends on having proper succession plans and having your incoming leaders have the opportunity for training in their new roles that PEELS will provide. **Pacific Northwest PEELS will be held in Seattle on February 21-23, 2025.** We work with 9 other Rotary Districts to prepare and present this event. [Read More](#)

**A special request of District 5080 Rotarians**

Tuesday, November 19, 2024

Belonging to Rotary is to belong to a very unique organization. **We** are the ones who do things - we don't just give money to those who do things. Rotarians simply help. We help people we don't know, and sometimes we help people we do know. And sometimes we become accidental heroes just by helping people.



John Horton, a 25-year charter member of the Rotary Club of Columbia Valley Daybreak (and who has served twice as President), is asking for that second kind of help.

Lori Horton, John's wife, needs a kidney. She has Polycystic (multiple cysts) Kidney Disease, a hereditary disease that slowly robs a person of their kidney function. She was diagnosed in her early twenties, and despite her best efforts to prolong the health of her kidneys, their function has now deteriorated to the point where she needs a transplant.

John and Lori are asking their fellow Rotarians, all of us, to help spread the word about Lori's need.

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John and Lori are asking their fellow Rotarians, all of us, to help spread the word about Lori's need. Yes, of course any interest in becoming a donor will be most welcome, but the idea is that the more people that know of this need, the better the opportunity a donor will be found.

You can read Lori and John's full story here: [www.nkr.org/HMM878](http://www.nkr.org/HMM878). From the website, you can share their story via Facebook, X (Twitter) or email. You can also share the attached photo of the business card type handouts from the National Kidney Registry that provide access to the website through its URL address and through a QR code.

If you have any questions, please contact John Horton at (509) 531-6814, or email him at [jwhorton13@msn.com](mailto:jwhorton13@msn.com).



**Learning with Lucky**

By Dave Ostrom

Learning with Lucky is a reading incentive program that encourages children to read independently, building fluency and vital reading skills. Over 30,000 students



in 7 states have graduated from this program, according to the Learning with Lucky [website](#). The Lena Whitmore Elementary School in Moscow Idaho has been successfully using this program for years and the Moscow School District asked for help from the Rotary Club of Moscow to expand the use of the program to all 3 public elementary schools in the district. The club applied for and received a

district grant to implement the program. Stuffed animal puppies, reading logs, books, and stickers have been purchased.

Each first-grade student was given a stuffed animal puppy that they read to. Progress is kept in log books and a child reaching milestones will be awarded a dog collar, charm, etc. In the end, students will have gained reading proficiency and be ready to continue their education. Those that graduate will be able to keep their puppy at the end of the year.

Moscow Rotarians, along with other volunteers, sit with the children as they read and help them as requested with pronunciation and meaning. Those Rotarians that have participated have reported that they have really enjoyed the experience and loved the opportunity to help!

Early next year progress will be measured and the results will be used to help fine tune the program. The Rotary Club of Moscow will be given those results and will report on the findings.



**First grade student with Rotarian Lynn Youngblood**



**Stuffed Animal Puppy with Reading Books**

### **An AED for Ponderay's Field of Dreams**

With the help of a Rotary district grant, our club was able to purchase an AED for Ponderay's Field of Dreams. Thank you [Rotary District 5080](#), [Bonner County EMS](#) & [City of Ponderay](#) for your assistance with this worthwhile project!

An AED, or Automated External Defibrillator, is a portable device that can help save someone's life during sudden cardiac arrest. If necessary, it delivers an electric shock to the heart to restore its normal rhythm. Easy to use, it's crucial in emergencies when someone's heart stops beating.



### **Rotary Diapers; a Project Utilizing a District Grant**

By Dave Lindstrand



Spokane Valley Sunrise Rotary has for years focused almost solely on projects that help kids. Several years ago we did some strategic planning. It was primarily focused on the direction we wanted to go with our projects. The result was we wanted to focus only on kids both locally and internationally. Since then, on a local basis, we have given away scholarships to students at 2 year schools. This was designed to help an underserved student population in community colleges or technical training programs. We have also supported programs at local high schools, robotics teams, student closets for kids without adequate clothing options, books for deserving students etc. We also have done several projects with Valley Partners (just renamed Partners INW). They operate a food bank, clothing bank, diaper bank etc along with other services for 11 counties surrounding Spokane.

[Read More](#)

### **Bite2Go**

By James Johnson on Thursday, November 21, 2024

Spokane Aurora Northwest and Club 21 each received a local district grant for the Bite2Go program that addresses food insecurity for children in Eastern Washington and North Idaho. The Bite2Go program provides food for children on the weekends during the school year. These children receive breakfast



and lunch at school during the week, but many times go hungry on the weekends. This program addresses this

food insecurity gap so that children don't come to school on Monday hungry and can focus on learning. Many have little else to eat on weekends, so this makes a huge difference in their basic needs for consistent nourishment. The combination of club contributions and DDF provided \$25,460 to the Bite2Go program which will fund meals for the entire school year for 141 children.

In October, four Spokane clubs participated in a Bite2Go fill event at 2nd Harvest in Spokane. Some Rotarians are even now answering the call for volunteers at Bite2Go as they call for much-needed help to fill the packs since our fill event and are now continuing to help serve children. The October fill event was attended with enthusiasm by the Rotarians present and gratitude from Bite2Go. The Bite2Go team's statement to us on this event was "Rotary Rocks!"

### Well Child International service trip

By Percy Davis



Rotary Club Colfax has helped sponsor recent service teams to Mexico attended by both Colfax and other District 5080 club members. A recent testimonial:

"I had the opportunity to participate in a Well Child International project located in Penasco Mexico in the spring of 2024. I was a little unsure of what to expect of this program as I have had the opportunity to attend other international humanitarian projects that were just actually photo opportunities but not actual hands on involvement within the community. I asked Pastor Birnbaum if I could utilize my limited skills in carpentry and actually get my hands dirty on a project location. Upon arriving in Penasco I was introduced to Goyo and Vincenta. Goyo and Vincenta are in their 70's and required a roof over their bathroom facility as well as a structure to be built over their cooking pit as they have no indoor kitchen facility. Over the next five days Goyo, Vicenta and I worked tirelessly on the roof installation and construction of the cooking shelter. Pastor Birnbaum would check in on us from time to time and ensure that he delivered us the required supplies. After much sweat, laughter and timely assistance from Pastor Birnbaum, Jason, various family members and neighbours we achieved our goals!!! It still brings tears to my eyes on how appreciative and grateful this family was on receiving this simple upgrade to their shelter. I will be forever grateful to Well Child International for allowing me to participate in this hands on project. If Pastor Birnbaum calls, I will definitely participate in another hands on project that can utilize my limited skills for the betterment of the community members. This project rejuvenated my soul and I look forward to participating in other hands on projects that Well Child International is involved with."

Percy Davis, International Service, Cranbrook Rotary Club, B.C., Canada



But wait! There's more... you, too, can get an experience like this...

[Read More](#)

### Keeping Our Commitments – Become a Paul Harris Society Member

By Doreen Fox Kelsey on Sunday, December 1, 2024

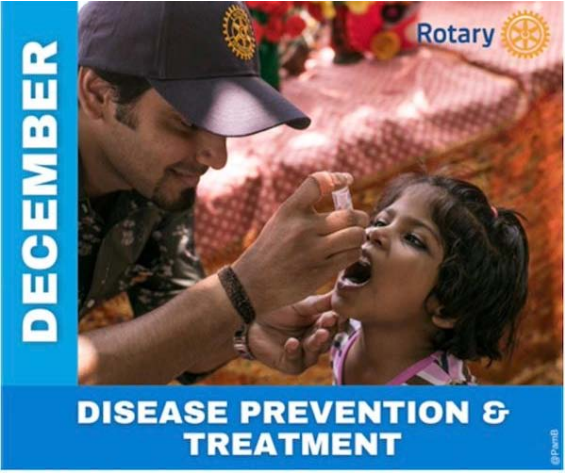
Less than 3 percent of Rotarians contribute at the Paul Harris Society level (\$1,000 annual commitment), yet these generous donors account for more than 35 percent of giving to the Rotary Foundation Annual Fund. The District literally could not fund its current volume of district grants or global grants without them!

The generosity of Paul Harris Society members makes it possible for clubs and the District to meet their fundraising goals when everyone gives what they can afford. For some, that may be \$25; for others, it may be \$100, but with the help of Paul Harris Society members, the District is able to support local and international service projects, help to eradicate polio, and work toward a more peaceful world. [Read More](#)

### Responding to the Gaza Polio Outbreak

**A Message from Director Dan Himelspach**





Rotary's December theme is Disease Prevention and Treatment. We can proudly report that Big West Clubs have historically and currently sponsored a wide variety of Disease Prevention and Treatment projects around the world.

Our initiative to eradicate the dreadful polio virus is by far our largest and most profound disease prevention program. We have labeled it "Rotary's Number 1 Outside Priority".

In the last few months, we have received disturbing news about the fight to end polio. Cases have increased and we are experiencing challenges in high-risk areas like Afghanistan, Pakistan, and northern Nigeria where complex humanitarian crises hinder progress. In September we responded to a polio outbreak in Gaza, with our first vaccination campaign reaching over 560,000 children. Recently a second round vaccinated nearly 557,000 children for polio and more than 448,000 children received vitamin A. Polio immunization requires two shots about four weeks apart and vaccination of approximately 90% of the people in a community. [Read More](#)

**Using RMDs to Make a Lasting Difference**

**ENDOWMENT FUND-SHARE**



Many of our fellow Rotarians are receiving Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from various tax-sheltered accounts (IRAs, TSAs (Tax Sheltered Annuities), etc.) at this time of year. They're looking for an avenue to leave a legacy to make a difference for

others in need. Major Gifts (those of \$10,000, or more) to the Endowment Fund/SHARE will return dividends to your District in perpetuity in the form of District Designated Funds (DDF) which can be used to enhance your District Grants. Major Gifts may also be directed to one of the seven Areas of Focus or the Polio Plus fund. Our Foundation offers our Major Donors many choices in leaving their legacy of hope for generations to come.

Contact District Endowment/Major Gifts Chair at [golfnjimb55@gmail.com](mailto:golfnjimb55@gmail.com) or Steve Lewis E/MGA Zone 27 [emgazone27@zone2627.org](mailto:emgazone27@zone2627.org)

**Save the Date - Rotary District 5080 Conference 2025, May 1 – 3, in Nelson, British Columbia!**

By Lorne Westnedge on Friday, November 29, 2024

It has been 10 years since Nelson, B.C. hosted a Rotary District Conference, and we are itching to do it again.

Please mark your calendar (or similar electronic device) and plan to come and visit.

Details are still being worked out, but we are guaranteeing you a good time and great value. At the beginning of May we invite you to come and check out spring in our mountain community, which is just a 3-hour drive north from Spokane, WA.



This year our event will be hosted in the Prestige Lakeside Resort, situated right on the West Arm of Kootenay Lake, a short walk to downtown Nelson, or to the Rotary Lakeside Park, where we plan to unveil a new Peace Pole during our time together.

Please plan to come and join in the fun and fellowship of a District 5080 Conference. Opportunities to learn, to socialize and participate with us in a beautiful setting. Registration should be on-line by Mid-January, 2025.

**10 Ways**

**the Rotary Foundation Builds Peace**

by RAGFP Immediate Past Chair Michael Hayes



1. Disease prevention projects move people out of survival mode so they can build stronger families
2. Polio Eradication through PolioPlus gives children the opportunity to grow up healthy and participate in family and community
3. Clean Water Projects prevent illness and allows families to help to build healthy stronger communities

4. Hygiene Projects help female students complete their education, and empower them to participate in society
5. Maternal and Child Health Projects build stronger and healthier families, resulting in more resilient communities.
6. Education and Literacy projects are the ultimate empowerment projects for individuals, helping to build stronger communities.
7. Community Economic Development projects empower individuals and the community and help build stronger, more resilient communities.
8. Environmental Projects help communities to protect resources which help to sustain their future and to enhance balance between community and the environment
9. Peace Projects address conflict prevention, discrimination, poverty, hunger and other sources of societal conflict.
10. Rotary Foundation Projects help build the attitudes, structures, and institutions needed to build stable, successful societies that exist in a state of positive peace!!!

### Lead the Way to End Polio



2024 has not been an easy one for polio eradication, with an increase in wild poliovirus transmission in the remaining two endemic countries and new and high-profile outbreaks, including in Gaza. And yet global commitment to polio eradication remains as high as ever.

1991 was the year of the last case of polio in the Western

Hemisphere. Ending polio endures and remains our top humanitarian goal. This will be our gift to the children of the world.

We have a historic opportunity to get to zero cases, but if we don't keep working, polio could quickly make a comeback, paralyzing many thousands of children again in our lifetime. Governments, with support from the GPEI, have the tools and strategies needed to end polio for good, but we need your help to finish the job. Join in and raise your voice in support of polio eradication.

**What can you do?** Tell others about Rotary's commitment. Adopt this goal and **Lead the way**: Every member of your club should join the PolioPlus Society for as little as \$10 per month to be at the finish line when – not if – we end polio.

(The PolioPlus Society is your commitment to the children of the world: you commit to a minimum of \$100 per year, every year, until polio is eradicated. We're so close!!!! Contact PolioPlus Chair Ed Kowitz at [ehkowitz@hotmail.com](mailto:ehkowitz@hotmail.com) to join!)

For more information on how we can help you energize your club's efforts, contact Mike Crosby at [epnczone27@zone2627.org](mailto:epnczone27@zone2627.org) or Marny Eulberg: [epnczone26@zone2627.org](mailto:epnczone26@zone2627.org)

### Become a Paul Harris Fellow with Help from Your District

By Doreen Fox Kelsey on Sunday, December 1, 2024

Make a donation to the Annual Fund between now and December 31, 2024, and the District will match your contribution 1:1 with up to 500 Foundation Recognition Points (FRPs) until we run out of available points. (We probably won't run out, but there's always a disclaimer.)

If you are already a Paul Harris Fellow, this match can help you get to your next giving level, up to Paul Harris

Fellow+8. If you haven't yet become a Paul Harris Fellow, donate \$500 USD, and with 500 FRPs contributed by the District, you'll become a Paul Harris Fellow!

Please note that this match will not advance your giving status to Major Donor. While FRPs can advance your recognition status to Paul Harris Fellow up to Paul Harris Fellow+8, only cash contributions are counted toward Major Donor status.

Please direct any questions or concerns to District Foundation Chair Doreen Kelsey at [dfoxkelsey@hotmail.com](mailto:dfoxkelsey@hotmail.com).

### Did you know you can get more by giving?

By James David Bauer

By funding a charitable gift annuity of at least \$10,000 with The Rotary Foundation, you can get a fixed payment, tax benefits, and increased major donor status. After all lifetime payments have been made, the remainder of your gift will flow to Rotary's Endowment to support the Foundation



# Charitable Gift Annuity



programs closest  
to your heart -  
forever.

Rotarians who give this way enjoy...

[Read More](#)

## Join Me! Big West Rotary Paul Harris Society Challenge

Saturday, November 30, 2024

In honor of Rotary Foundation Month and to promote [The Paul Harris Society](#), my wife Leslie Lawson and I, along with an anonymous donor, are contributing a total of \$500,000 to The Rotary Foundation. We are challenging 500 members from Zones 26 & 27 to join the Paul Harris Society before December 31, 2024, so we can reach \$1 million! The Paul Harris Society is a commitment to donate \$1,000 annually to The Rotary Foundation. Members can now easily join online by clicking [HERE](#).

All the details are on the attached flyer. Remember, if you direct your contribution to PolioPlus, it will be matched at a 2:1 ratio.

Let's all work together to achieve this important goal!

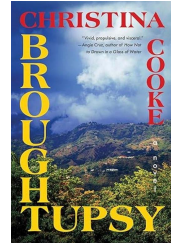
Thanks,  
Dan

**Daniel C. Himelspach**  
Daniel C. Himelspach  
RI Director 2023-25  
[Dg13-14@DisputeManagementInc.com](mailto:Dg13-14@DisputeManagementInc.com)  
303-349-5689



## Book Review

By Leslie Ellen Waters on Tuesday, November 26, 2024



**Broughtupsy, debut novel by author** Christina Cooke  
Review of Rotary District 5080 DEI Book Group, November 12, 2024

The District 5080 DEI book group met by zoom on Tuesday, November 12, in a special session organized by Maddy Harlamovs. One of our book group members, Joan Cooke, had mentioned that her daughter had written a book that might be of interest to our book group. Maddy asked the author, Christina Cooke, if she might be willing to visit our book group and do a reading, speak about the book and answer questions. We discovered that Christina is currently in Berlin for a few months but was willing to Zoom from there, if we could find a time when she was awake! So today, at 11 AM PST and 8 PM Berlin time, we had the pleasure of meeting Christina. [Read More](#)

## Register Your Club or District Facebook Site

META (Facebook) has been shutting down many club and district Facebook pages for what they deem to be copyright violations regarding the use of Rotary International trademarks. Rotary has created a very simple online form for clubs and districts to register their Facebook pages with RI to prevent this from occurring, or to get your page reinstated if it has already been taken down by META. **It is extremely important for every Rotary Club and District to register their Facebook pages with Rotary International to avoid potential issues with META.** Click below to access the [RI registration link](#).

## Public Image Open Mic Night

Join us (Zone 26/27) for an 'ask me anything' style meeting where you can ask all your burning public image questions and share your current projects and initiatives.  
[REGISTER](#)



## CONVENTION NEWS - NOVEMBER



Hello to everyone who has registered for the 2025 Rotary International Convention! We look forward to gathering with you 21-25 June in Calgary.

### Start planning your own event

With so many Rotary members in one place, the convention presents a rare opportunity. Start planning now to meet with members from your district, your zone, or another group within Rotary by organizing an unofficial affiliate event. These events, held in conjunction with the convention but not as part of the official program, are organized entirely by our members. The organizers of each event are responsible for paying for its costs, including venue rental, catering, audiovisual equipment, security, and transportation.

[Read More](#)

## 2025 Zone Institute Albuquerque

**Embark on a  
Rotary  
Journey Like  
No Other!**

From **October  
23-25, 2025,**

the Rotary Institute will take you on an unforgettable journey along Rotary Route 66.



**Celebrate friendships**, old and new. You'll have the opportunity to build lasting relationships with fellow attendees, creating a network of support and collaboration that extends far beyond the event itself.

[Read More](#)