



Welcome to District 5080



District 5080, located in Southeast British Columbia, Eastern Washington, and Northern Idaho, joins a global network of neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who take action to create lasting change. We use our passion, energy, and intelligence to take action on sustainable projects, from literacy and peace to water and health (*and so much more!*), we are always working to better our world, and we stay committed to the end.

Rotarians believe in promoting integrity, and advancing world understanding, goodwill, and peace through its fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.

Fulfill your passion and get involved!

### May is Youth Services Month - Governor's Update

As I turned over the page in my calendar this morning (yes, I still use a wall calendar, and yes, I am writing this on May 1), I see that Youth Services Month is the Rotary theme for May.

This is appropriate as many clubs provide support for young people in so many ways. The number of scholarships that our District provides makes a huge difference in people's lives, and allows opportunities to expand and flourish.

Many clubs provide support for school breakfast and/or lunch programs, allowing students a better learning experience with food in their stomachs.

[Read More](#)

## The Rotary Foundation's Impact: \$125,000 of Compassion in Action



This past year, from June 2024 through May 2025, through The Rotary Foundation's Disaster Relief grants, clubs in Zones 26 and 27 turned **generosity into hope**, by receiving \$125,000 in disaster relief for communities in crisis. These funds touched lives across the western United States -

supplying water tanks and a golf cart for elderly wildfire survivors in Hawaii, rebuilding rural fencing destroyed by Texas fires, and providing essential food, shelter, and transportation for families impacted by floods in San Diego and wildfires in Los Angeles. [Read More](#)

## Thank You! Your Support of the Rotary Foundation Makes It Possible To Do Good in the World

By Doreen Fox Kelsey

With the support of the 918 Rotary members in our district who donated to the Annual Fund – SHARE, just over \$320,000 USD has been contributed so far this year. **Thank you** for your generosity – together, Rotarians in our district and their project partners have achieved the following:

- Provided clean water to thousands
- Treated and prevented malaria, saving thousands of lives
- Enabled children to learn to read, locally and globally
- Provided food to hungry children in local schools
- Improved quality of life for children with autism
- Equipped computer labs and provided school supplies
- Supported veterans and Gold Star families with needed supplies
- Reduced food waste and distributed produce to food banks in eastern Washington
- Equipped a recreation complex with an automated external defibrillator in north Idaho
- Provided first-aid training and medical supplies to indigenous communities
- Supported peacebuilding activities toward a more peaceful world

And, this is just a partial list.

**Thank you** to the 571 donors who contributed at least \$100 USD to the Annual Fund – SHARE, and **thank you** to the 140 Paul Harris Society members who donated a minimum of \$1,000 USD to the Rotary Foundation. We're holding out hope for the remaining 43 Paul Harris Society members to fulfill their annual commitment this year, and we acknowledge that all giving is voluntary.

We still have a way to go to be in a position to support all the wonderful work of our volunteers making a difference in our local and global communities – an additional \$80,000 USD is needed. Not all of us are able to do the work, due to health limitations, family obligations, and work commitments. But we can all help to finance these life-saving projects that have a lasting impact.

If you haven't already, please make a donation to the Annual Fund – SHARE by visiting [www.rotary.org/donate](http://www.rotary.org/donate)  
Or send an email to Doreen Kelsey, District Rotary Foundation Committee Chair, at [dfoxkelsey@hotmail.com](mailto:dfoxkelsey@hotmail.com) for a completed contribution form.

**Thank you** to all the Rotarians doing good in the world! **You make a difference in the lives of millions.**

## End of Year Support for Tomorrow's Projects

By Katherine E. Long  
District 5080  
Rotarians,

Spring is in the air for sure! Our 5080 District Conference just finished, and it is the time of year to spring our donations to the Annual Fund to a new height! District Governor Lorne is about to wrap up a very successful year and much has been accomplished. And Governor-Elect David is about to start off his term.

# The Rotary Foundation



As we contemplate our clubs' individual successes, it is also time to consider our personal contributions to Rotary. Many years ago, as a new Rotarian, I was encouraged to give freely of my time, my talents, and my personal gifts to the Rotary Foundation. I ask you to do the same now!

Lorne encouraged us to stretch this year so that we could accomplish our district goals and our Rotary Foundation needs. When he visited each club, he suggested gift goals for each club. Please remember to consider his ask once again if you have not already done so.

If we could achieve \$40 dollars for each new donor within our district, what an accomplishment that would be! \$10 each quarter is a wonderful way to start your donor gifts with Rotary. I know you already give of your time and talents. These are easily recognized by viewing our district website! Of course, gifts would be so appreciated, now to finish this Rotary Year by June 30<sup>th</sup> and throughout next year.

**Rotary Foundation** grant funds come from our donations each year - without your generosity, project funding would not be possible. *Please join all the donors from the Rotary Clubs across the district to make a difference today and tomorrow with your donation to the Rotary Foundation Annual Fund - SHARE.* Your donations ease food insecurity among school children and families; provide support to veterans in our communities; help children cross the street more safely; support literacy and education; and build capacity and self-sufficiency in communities across the developing world. And this is just a partial list of all the *good in the world* that is financed with **Rotary Foundation** grants.

Thank you for your support of the **Rotary Foundation** in the past, *and please consider your next donation for all the impact it will make toward a more peaceful and prosperous world.* Your \$25 USD donation to the **Annual Fund - SHARE** earns you Every Rotarian Every Year (EREY) status, and a \$100 USD donation makes you a sustaining member. Or perhaps you are working on your next Paul Harris Fellow level to put one more sparkling stone on your pin. We can help you with that!

*Giving is convenient and easy.* Simply go to [www.rotary.org/donate](http://www.rotary.org/donate) and make your gift today to the **Annual Fund – SHARE**. While you are there, consider enrolling in Rotary Direct by checking off the box to make your gift a recurring donation. Please contact me if you have any questions or need assistance.



Thank you for all you do and for your continuing support of the **Rotary Foundation** and the projects it funds.

## Project Dignity Needs Your Support

Project Dignity, GG2577183, Combating Human Trafficking  
Edited by Doreen Kelsey, District Rotary Foundation Chair

Imagine this: a 15-year-old girl in a remote mountain village is offered a job that promises to help her support her family. She is hopeful. She dreams bigger. But instead of opportunity, she walks straight into exploitation.

This story plays out far too often in **Vietnam's Di?n Biên Province**, where human traffickers prey on families facing poverty and limited choices. Now, imagine if that story could have ended differently, because *your District or clubs chose to act*.

### **Introducing Project Dignity (GG2577183) - an \$800,000 Rotary international and World Vision Project**

This is an \$800,000 global grant powered by Rotary International and World Vision. The goal? To prevent trafficking before it happens, protect those most at risk, and walk alongside survivors as they rebuild their lives with dignity and hope.

**We already have strong support from key Rotary leaders and clubs, and World Vision has committed to matching our \$400,000 fundraising goal dollar-for-dollar.** We're asking your clubs or District to be part of this movement. Will you join us?

### **What Does Project Dignity Actually Do?**

- Teaches youth and families how to spot trafficking tactics, travel safely, and protect themselves online
- Provides real job training and leadership development to at-risk youth
- Offers legal aid, counseling, and reintegration support to survivors
- Trains local officials in trauma-informed, victim-centered response
- Builds strong, connected communities that can stand up to traffickers

All of this is happening in **Vietnam's Di?n Biên province**, near the borders of Laos and China, one of the most affected areas in Southeast Asia.

### **Ask Yourself...**

- What would it mean for your club to help stop a child from being trafficked?
- How many lives could change with just one job opportunity, one training session, or one safe community?

### **Your Next Step: Make a Pledge to GG2577183 Project Dignity by May 31, 2025**

1. Complete this online Pledge Form: <https://forms.office.com/r/ZT2xiuMxkM>
2. OR, Reply to [bobdeering5180@gmail.com](mailto:bobdeering5180@gmail.com) (Bob Deering) and let us know:

Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_ District Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name, Phone, and Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Club Contribution: \_\_\_\_\_

District Designated Funds (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_

That's it! Your commitment can help rewrite someone's story.

## Rotary Club Grant Project – Narok, Kenya

We are pleased to report the successful completion of our



Rotary Club grant project supporting Esupetai Primary School, located in Narok County, approximately 156 kilometers west of Nairobi, Kenya. Through this initiative, we provided 200 high-quality school desks with attached locker/cubby spaces and 200 corresponding chairs—each constructed with durable steel and wood materials—to enhance the learning



environment for the students of Esupetai.

Esupetai Primary School serves 526 students, including 275 girls and 251 boys, with a dedicated but small staff of 14 teachers. Before this project, many students were forced to share limited and often deteriorated furniture, which hindered their ability to focus, write comfortably, and store their school supplies.



The desks and chairs provided not only offer practical functionality, such as dedicated storage space, but also help promote a sense of dignity and respect for each child's personal learning space. Improved classroom conditions are already fostering greater student engagement, comfort, and enthusiasm for learning.

This project aligns with Rotary's commitment to supporting education and empowering youth. We are deeply grateful to all our partners and supporters who made this effort

possible. The transformation at Esupetai Primary School is a testament to the power of Rotary's global reach and local impact.

We look forward to continued collaboration to support communities like Narok, where even small improvements in infrastructure can bring lasting change to the lives of young learners.

## Fourth Annual Grand Forks Peace Gathering - One Human Family

By Maxine A Ruzicka

The Fourth Annual Peace Gathering in Grand Forks, BC, once again saw an on-site full house at the USCC Doukhobor Hall, with over 160 registrations, dozens of volunteers and numerous presentations by children, youth and adults.

We were delighted to have D5080 Rotary Foundation Committee Chair and PDG Doreen Kelsey, as Moderator for our event. The Gathering opened with a Land Acknowledgement by Jo White and the

Indigenous Wild Mountain Sage Drummers. This was followed by greetings and prayers from J.J. Verigin (USCC), the Doukhobor Singers, Jordan Bighorn (Baha'i), John McNamara (Rotary of Grand Forks), and Grand Forks Mayor Everett Baker. The Moderator also acknowledged other dignitaries that were in attendance including DG Lorne Westnedge.

For the first time, our location engaged in a pilot project with two Satellite Sites, one in Salmon Arm and one in Uganda at the Nakivale Refugee Camp. Rotary contacts were made with Mike Boudreau, Rotary D5060 Peace Committee Chair and Ndagano Namwangwa, Founder and Director of Success Roots, a program of educational teachings, life skills and training courses in the arts, agriculture and advancing peace to young and refugee adults at the Nakivale Refugee Settlement. We had connected through the Rotary D5080 Peace Committee initiative with the Peace Literacy Institute and Oregon State University online course, "Navigating Aggression, Its Causes, Anatomy and Alternatives".



[Read More](#)

## Applications Open for Peace Fellowships

By Doreen Fox Kelsey

### Application Deadline is May 15 for Rotary Peace Scholars

Promoting peace is a cornerstone of Rotary's mission. By carrying out service projects, supporting peace fellowships and scholarships, and partnering with others, Rotary members take action to address the underlying causes of conflict, including poverty, discrimination, ethnic tension, lack of access to education, and unequal distribution of resources. Rotary Peace Fellowships that train peace and development professionals to become effective catalysts for peace are one of the most effective ways to build peace.

The fully funded Rotary Peace Fellowship, which covers tuition and living expenses, increases the capacity of dedicated peacebuilders from communities around the world to prevent and resolve conflict by offering academic training, field experience, and professional networking.

[Read More](#)

## Date Change for the Waterton Glacier Assembly in the Fall

The date for the Waterton Glacier International Peace Park Assembly has changed to September 12/13, and will be held at the Community



Centre in Waterton Lakes Village.

It's a rollicking good time, and concludes with the Hands Across the Border ceremony during which Canadians and people from the U.S. pledge continuing please between our nations.



## ExpertHub

Your one-stop shop for free help with:

Membership  
Fundraising  
TRF (The Rotary Foundation)  
Projects  
Club & District Resources  
Youth Programs  
End Polio Now  
and much more!

You can connect with someone from Rotary International to get your questions answered (no - not DACdb questions - you've got club and district resources for that!)

[Try it now!](#)

## Epic Day Of Service - May 17, 2025

Do you want to learn more about how your Club or District can be a part of the [Epic Day of Service](#) in May 2025? Here are two ways you can get more information and have your questions answered.

Several club in our district have already registered their projects!

Watch the 2025 launch video on [YouTube](#).

**Attend an Open Mic Zoom Meetings** scheduled for 5:00 pm Pacific time on May 14. [Register](#) in advance.

## Enjoy Volunteering: Reap the Health Benefits

**By** Susan  
Schoenbeck, MSN,  
RN, Polio Survivor  
(1946)  
Volunteers  
connect with other



people in a variety of ways to provide services that otherwise might go by the wayside. Volunteering has health benefits often overlooked but much appreciated by our bodies, minds, and spirits.

We are experiencing an *age of uncertainty* with many worldwide changes such as

old epidemics again affecting animals, children, and adults. We worry about the future.

Our bodies react to uncertainty with a biological stress response. Uncertainty plays out in headaches, muscles aches and pains, tummy aches, fatigue, and difficulty concentrating. Our heart rates may increase. Prolonged stress can lead to serious health problems.

Volunteering counters uncertainty. It gives us a sense of purpose and provides new avenues for social interactions. Volunteering leads to our brain pumping out *feel-good* hormones and better brain functioning. This is called "*a helper's high*."

People who volunteer get to know and interact with people new to them. Volunteering gives a person's life meaning and satisfaction. This is calming. These outcomes may be factors underlying the fact that volunteers live longer than people who do not volunteer.

Everyone can get a dose of happiness by belonging to a volunteer group. Volunteering may put these uncertain times into perspective and boost your health.

## Need Help - Call a Rotarian

By Doreen Fox Kelsey





### Being a Rotarian Means Someone is Always Willing to Help You

I was reminded recently of the fact that Rotary means no matter where you find yourself in the world, or whatever help you may need, there is always a Rotarian willing to assist you. I think it's one of the best benefits of being a Rotarian.

Last month, I received a call from Sandy Hartman, a member of the Castlegar Sunrise Rotary Club. Her son Alex was registered to attend a retreat at the LoveYourBrain Foundation in the Denver area for individuals dealing with traumatic brain injury (TBI). Alex has brain challenges that affect his brain function, and these increase when he is tired or overstimulated. This is an invisible disability and although he appears able to travel on his own, he may require assistance. Air Canada provides this service through its unaccompanied adult program.

This means an agent of the airline is required to meet him before he boards the plane, and another agent must assist him in making his connection. When Alex was scheduled to arrive at Denver International Airport, an agent would accompany him to Baggage Claim. So far so good.

[Read More](#)

### Dues: Your Investment in Our Success

#### *A Message from (Zone 26/27) Director Dan Himelspach*

Membership dues are set by the Council of Legislation that meets every three years. The recent 2025 COL authorized an increase as follows:

Dues for Rotary Year 2026-27: \$85.50 per year - an increase of \$3.50

Dues for Rotary Year 2027-28: \$89.25 per year - an increase of \$3.75

Dues for Rotary Year 2028-29: \$93.00 per year - an increase of \$3.75

[Read More](#)

### 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: [Read More](#)



## 2025 Rotary Institute - Shark Tank

### **Pitch. Impress. Ignite Impact.**

Welcome to the Big West Rotary Institute's First-Ever SHARK TANK!  
([Register](#) for [Zone Institute](#) in Albuquerque, October 23-25, 2025)

Have a bold idea that can change the world? Ready to turn vision into action?

**Step into the spotlight at Rotary's most electrifying new session: Shark Tank at the 2025 Big West Rotary Institute in Albuquerque!**

This is *not* your average presentation. It's a high-octane, high-stakes opportunity to showcase your **Global Grant project** in front of a panel of influential "Sharks", and a room full of inspired Rotarians eager to invest in bold ideas.

[Read More](#)