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October 2017

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Paul Fredrick

DEAR FELLOW ROTARIANS,

Some years ago in the Melbourne, Australia, museum where my daughter used to work, an iron lung was on display. For most people my age who remembered the terrifying polio epidemics of the 1950s, that iron lung was a testament to how far vaccination had brought us: to the point where that once-critical piece of medical equipment had literally become a museum piece.

For much of the world, the story of polio is a simple one: After years of fear, a vaccine was developed and a disease was conquered. But for some of the world, the story was different. In so many countries, the vaccine wasn't available, mass vaccination was too expensive, or children simply couldn't be reached. While the rest of the world relegated polio to its museums, in these countries, the disease continued to rage – until Rotary stepped forward and said that all children, no matter where they lived or what their circumstances, deserved to live free of polio.

In the years since PolioPlus was launched, the combined efforts of Rotary, the governments of the world, and the Global Polio Eradication Initiative have brought the number of cases of polio down from an estimated 350,000 per year to just a few so far in 2017. But we must reach zero cases, and stay there, to achieve eradication. To do that, we need everyone's help.

On 24 October, we will mark World Polio Day. It is a day to celebrate how far we have come and an opportunity for all of us to raise awareness and funds to complete the work of eradication. I ask every Rotary club to participate in some way in World Polio Day activities, and I encourage you to visit endpolio.org for ideas and to register your event. Whether you host a silent auction, a virtual reality viewing, a fundraising walk, or a Purple Pinkie Day, your club can make a real difference.

This year, our World Polio Day livestream event will take place at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation headquarters in Seattle; you can watch it on endpolio.org beginning at 2:30 p.m. Pacific time. As many of you know, Rotary has committed to raising $50 million a year for the next three years. This amount will be matched 2-to-1 by the Gates Foundation – effectively tripling the value of all money Rotary raises on World Polio Day and throughout the year. Let's all make a difference on World Polio Day – and help End Polio Now.

IAN H.S. RISELEY
President, Rotary International

ROTARY: MAKING A DIFFERENCE

TORONTO 2018

ON THE WEB
Speeches and news from RI President Ian H.S. Riseley at www.rotary.org/office-president

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Vol.196 No.4

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COLUMNS

ON THE COVER

While Bill Gates and others have pledged the money to shrink the funding gap to defeat polio, Rotary's work continues. (Photography by The Gates Notes LLC)

LEFT Alpharetta, Ga., Rotarians help build a Habitat for Humanity house. Read about their work to aid struggling suburban families on page 32. (Photography by Alyce Henson/Rotary International)

the rotarian®

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TOGETHER, WE END POLIO

Rotary believes healthy communities are strong communities. That's one reason we've worked tirelessly to help immunize 2.5 billion children against polio. Bringing the world closer to eradicating a deadly disease — that's what people of action do. **Learn more at Rotary.org.**

Rotary PEOPLE OF ACTION

No, thank *you*

My wife and I are thrilled about the 22 awards and honors that *The Rotarian* and its staff have received. We feel that they are well-deserved; in fact, we have long been describing *The Rotarian* to friends and relatives as "the best monthly magazine in America."

It is a professional observation after 42 years as a newspaper reporter. I have always been an avid reader of the magazine, and I have witnessed its steady improvement in clarity and design. The photography and excellent articles serve both Rotarians and the public. Thank you for giving us a magazine that enhances our understanding and appreciation of Rotary.

Robert A. Selwa
Detroit

Get the word out

I joined Rotary because I was intrigued by the good work being done in my community through my local club, and the amazing accomplishments worldwide through our organization. After many years of personal involvement, my commitment has only increased as I continuously learn of the all the great work the organization is involved in and the far-reaching effects of these efforts.

The three clubs in my community submit pictures and articles to our local newspaper, attempting to get the Rotary name and information about our programs and projects out to the community. However, I still seem to encounter so many people who have never even heard of Rotary, much less know what the organization does.

I was therefore thrilled to read RI President Ian H.S. Riseley's comments in the July issue (page 39) that Rotary needs to communicate better with people outside the organization.

He very openly states, "We've grown up talking to ourselves. … We haven't made enough effort in marketing ourselves to the outside world. One of the things I am absolutely petrified of is that when polio is gone, Rotary will not get the recognition that we warrant."

Thank you, President Riseley, for having the courage to express a concern that I feel so many members have felt for years: specifically, "What will be our next initiative?" Thank you for giving us new hope that under your leadership, Rotary truly can continue *Making a Difference* and make the world more aware of that work.

Ronnie K. Mand
Danville, Va.

Editing the test

As a Rotary member for 15 years, I was very interested in the article "Teaching the Test to the Next Generation" (June), since I have used The Four-Way Test in my personal and business dealings and believe that it has truly made me a better person. In our very fractured society today, I find it even more valuable to use in every decision and action. In the day of Paul Harris, the world was very small, but today our actions affect the whole world. I agree in principle with all four parts of the test but question the word "concerned" in Nos. 2 and 4. We should consider removing the word "concerned" for No. 2 to say, "Is it FAIR to all?" and No. 4 to say, "Will it be BENEFICIAL to all?" Both

changes might better represent what Rotary is all about and better state our true goal.

Thomas V. Lasse
Milton, Wis.

What women want

I am disheartened to see the dearth of women on the RI Board of Directors. When I hear, "We need more women in Rotary," it strikes me as lip service. If the leaders of Rotary really wanted more women in Rotary, there would be more women in leadership roles. It's that simple. It seems that what the old guard – and I do mean old – really wants is more women to do the silent, unrecognized work while powerful roles remain firmly entrenched with male Rotarians.

Sarah Carriker
Austin, Texas

Hidden figures

I greatly appreciated the "Why I Joined" issue (August) until I reached the end and saw the all-male Board of Directors and only one new woman trustee. As a 46-year-old woman who joined the diverse (and about 40 percent female) Rotary Club of Washington, D.C., in 2012, it pains me to see how little concrete action appears to be taken at many other clubs locally, nationally, and internationally to recruit, support, and promote women members, not to mention officers. It's difficult for me to entice my female friends to join Rotary even at my more forward-thinking club because of its long history as a male-only organization (until the shockingly recent late '80s!). I still can't believe I was already in college when RI was essentially forced to allow women. The elitist "old boys club" reputation was well-earned and is still too much of a reality. Rotary will continue to shed members if it doesn't change the culture and make it more welcoming to women. Having a few female future presidents in the Board pipeline would be an important first step.

Monica M. Smith
Silver Spring, Md.

Boys club

The list of new directors and trustees in the August *Rotarian* demonstrated one of the characteristics that is hampering Rotary's growth – RI seems to be trying to prove that there are no female Rotarians capable of being promoted to such "august" positions – that it is still only an old boys club. Stop it and grow into the new world.

In our club 10 out of 38 are women, and our president is female; the other Rotary club in Camrose just had a female president.

This is a very serious problem that needs to be fixed now.

James R. Rasmussen
Camrose, Alta.

Jump for charity

In the March issue, you ran an article headlined "Skydivers Raise Thousands for Polio Eradication." It motivated Honorary Rotarian and Major Donor Sara Simmonds, 98, to skydive to raise funds through the Rotary Club of Alexandria, La., for one of her favorite charities: the National Guard Youth Challenge Program. One of our members offered her $1,000 if she would *not* skydive. But Sara is quite agile and determined, and she became the oldest person in Louisiana to complete a jump. NBC covered her dive on social media, and it was the most looked-at spot of the week. Sara was thrilled with her experience and with the results. To date, over $20,000 was raised for this worthy cause. Thanks to *The Rotarian* for this great idea!

Edwin J. Caplan
Boyce, La.

COURTESY NATIONAL GUARD YOUTH CHALLENGE PROGRAM

The Rotarian **inspired Sara Simmonds, 98, to jump out of a plane for Louisiana youth.**

The editors welcome comments on items published in the magazine but reserve the right to edit for style and length. Published letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors or Rotary International leadership, nor do the editors take responsibility for errors of fact that may be expressed by the writers.

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SERVICE ABOVE SELF

The Object *of* Rotary

THE OBJECT of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

FIRST The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

SECOND High ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

THIRD The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;

FOURTH The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service

The Four-Way Test

OF THE THINGS we think, say, or do:

1) Is it the TRUTH?
2) Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3) Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4) Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

Rotarian Code of Conduct

The following code of conduct has been adopted for the use of Rotarians:

AS A ROTARIAN, I will

1) Act with integrity and high ethical standards in my personal and professional life
2) Deal fairly with others and treat them and their occupations with respect
3) Use my professional skills through Rotary to: mentor young people, help those with special needs, and improve people's quality of life in my community and in the world
4) Avoid behavior that reflects adversely on Rotary or other Rotarians

editor's note

Our cover this month is not just a bunch of numbers. The end of polio is within our grasp, and organizations and countries all over the world have pledged vital funds to ensure that we realize our shared goal. At the convention in Atlanta in June, Bill Gates was joined by other world leaders onstage for an exhilarating, emotional, and historic show of resolve. Now it's up to us to make sure those promises are kept and to fulfill our commitment to raising $50 million a year for the next three years so we can finish the job.

In this issue, you'll read how Jay Wenger made the switch from working on epidemiology for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to heading the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's polio eradication campaign. In the accompanying pieces, you'll see the evolution of Rotary's partnership with the Gates Foundation and an accounting of recent notable pledges, including those announced at the convention, to fund eradication.

It's up to us to make sure those promises are kept and to fulfill our commitment to raising $50 million a year.

Senior staff writer Diana Schoberg talked to Matthew Desmond about his book *Evicted*, which won the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for nonfiction. The Princeton sociologist spent time with landlords and tenants in Milwaukee and found that being evicted can be the cause rather than the result of poverty. An eviction often leads to an unanticipated cascade of events, including job loss among adults and difficulties in school among children, as well as increasingly unhealthy and dangerous living situations.

In Alpharetta, Ga., Rotarians understand those challenges and have dedicated themselves to improving the odds for single mothers struggling to lift themselves and their children out of poverty. In "A Place to Call Home," contributing editor Vanessa Glavinskas tells the story of Beatrice and her two daughters, and of how the Rotarians and the community programs they support have nurtured the family's transition to self-sufficiency.

In July, the Rotary world lost its president-elect, Sam F. Owori, to complications following surgery. His friends John Smarge, a past RI director who was Sam's aide, and Director-elect Olayinka Hakeem Babalola remember him for the extraordinary colleague he was, and reflect on the promise his presidency would have held for Rotarians in Africa and around the world.

JOHN REZEK

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Rotary

up front

COURTESY OF JENNIFER BOYD

Summit meeting

JENNIFER BOYD
Scarborough Rotary Passport Club, Ontario

For three Toronto-area Rotarians, a successful six-day trek up Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania in June 2016 was momentous for several reasons. After a year of planning and publicizing, Jennifer Boyd, Ryan Fogarty, and Raffy Chouljian raised CA$500,000 for End Polio Now. The climb went without a hitch, and at the summit, Fogarty surprised Boyd when he got on one knee and proposed. The seed for the journey was planted in 2011. "At the District 7070 Conference, one of the keynote speakers was a polio survivor, Ramesh Ferris, who crawled in," explains Boyd, who is her club's president. "It was the first time I'd seen what polio was firsthand. It made me want to make a difference." After Boyd participated in a National Immunization Day in India in 2015, a friend suggested she climb Kilimanjaro to raise funds for End Polio Now; within days she persuaded Fogarty and Chouljian to come along. They exceeded their initial fundraising goal of CA$100,000 in donations. The Canadian government and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation matched it 2-to-1, bringing it to CA$500,000. Boyd's next big project was her September wedding, where every guest was to receive a wooden rose with a note that a $10 donation had been made in their name – to End Polio Now, of course.

– ANNE STEIN

CONVENTION

Museums

When people think of Toronto, they usually think of snow, hockey, and, more recently, culinary delights. But the city has some world-class museums too. If you have time to visit just one when you're in town for the 2018 Rotary International Convention from 23 to 27 June, you should go to either the Royal Ontario Museum or the Art Gallery of Ontario.

"The ROM" is a museum of art, culture, and nature from around the world and across the ages. Its collection comprises about 6 million specimens, objects, and artifacts. Ten years ago, a museum expansion added five interlocking prismatic structures in the shape of a crystal.

The nearby AGO's collection includes more than 90,000 works of art. It has an expansive collection of Canadian art, works from the Renaissance and Baroque eras, and European, African, Oceanic, and contemporary art. The collection of 40,000 photographs is a big draw, as is the largest public collection of works by renowned British sculptor Henry Moore.

Across the street from the ROM, you'll find Canada's national ceramics museum, the Gardiner, which offers drop-in clay classes. Another popular destination is the Bata Shoe Museum, which has thousands of shoes and related artifacts on display representing 4,500 years of footwear. – **RANDI DRUZIN**

Register for the 2018 Rotary Convention in Toronto at riconvention.org.

DISPATCHES

Cricketers show off their abilities

Salman Mubarak of the Rotary Club of Multan Cantt, Pakistan, who has led projects to provide wheelchairs and prosthetic hands, wanted to showcase what people with disabilities can do. So he combined his passion for helping others with another love: the sport of cricket.

In February Mubarak recruited about 30 polio survivors for a match that kindled competitive spirits and showed that the men "are not people with disabilities but people with special abilities," he says.

One of the competitors, Asif Iqbal, contracted the poliovirus when he was nine months old. He did not receive a wheelchair until nearly 20 years later. "I was crawling to go to the school, and the pain I went through is indescribable," says Iqbal, 37.

Though the normal rigors of play were multiplied by the burden of batsmen having to power their wheelchairs across the pitch, "they were making runs and they were doing their all," Mubarak says. "It was not an artificial show. It was a real match."

"The teams fought hard to win and were delighted to have the chance to play," says observer Susanne Rea, founder of World's Greatest Meal to Help End Polio, who was a guest at the match. The presence of Rea, a polio survivor herself, "was a great source of encouragement for all of us and her life story is a big motivation for me," says competitor Arif Anwar.

Player Wasim Zafar, who has not allowed the limited mobility in his right leg and left arm to crimp his career as a physician, saw the match as "a big opportunity to further my cause of reaching the world and making the masses aware that the physical disability in one's life does [have an] impact, but the positive energy and the focus on the special abilities hidden in each one of us can make the difference." –**BRAD WEBBER**

750,000
Estimated number of polio survivors in Pakistan

3
Wild poliovirus cases reported in Pakistan in 2017 as of July

2.5 billion
Estimated fan base for cricket worldwide

TOP LEFT: SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

MONICA GARWOOD

THE TALENT AROUND THE TABLE

Alumna works to change culture of harassment

ElsaMarie D'Silva of Mumbai began her career as a flight attendant, eventually rising to become vice president of network planning for one of India's largest airlines. Learning about the fatal 2012 gang rape of a young woman in Delhi, an unusually heinous crime that led to public outrage, led D'Silva to make a dramatic career switch.

D'Silva is the founder and CEO of the Red Dot Foundation, which works with nongovernmental organizations in India, Nepal, and Kenya to address street harassment and violence against women. In addition to community workshops, the foundation empowers women to document catcalling, groping, and other incidents through an online crowdmapping platform called Safecity. D'Silva was also a Rotary Peace Fellow at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok.

THE ROTARIAN: Why did you choose to work in this area?

D'SILVA: Sexual violence is a global pandemic. One in three women experiences it at least once, yet 80 percent of us choose not to make an official complaint. In India, there's a rape every 20 minutes. We have very strong legislation, but what is legislation if you're not going to use it? There's still fear of the police, of bringing shame to oneself and one's family.

TR: Was this kind of harassment something you witnessed yourself while growing up in India?

D'SILVA: Yes, I've been groped on a bus, on the street, on a train. When I started this work, a friend of mine said, "Now I understand why you don't take the train in Mumbai." It was a connection I had not made myself. We don't know how much these incidents restrict our lives.

TR: Tell us about some ways that the Red Dot Foundation has empowered women.

D'SILVA: We realized by looking at the Safecity app that there was a hot spot [of harassment] around a tea stall, which is a male-only space in India. Because it was on a busy road, where women passed by, men intimidated them with staring and commenting. When we asked the women what they wanted to change, they said, "We would like the staring to stop." In our culture, you don't confront a man directly. So we organized an art workshop for the women, and they painted a nearby wall to say, "Look with your heart, not with your eyes." And the staring stopped. It educated the community that this behavior was not appropriate.

TR: Do you think your efforts have led to any reduction in street harassment?

D'SILVA: I don't think the harassment has decreased. What I can say is that the conversations have increased and that people are becoming more aware of their rights and are more willing to report. I would even say that you will hear more sad stories, because people are talking about it more.

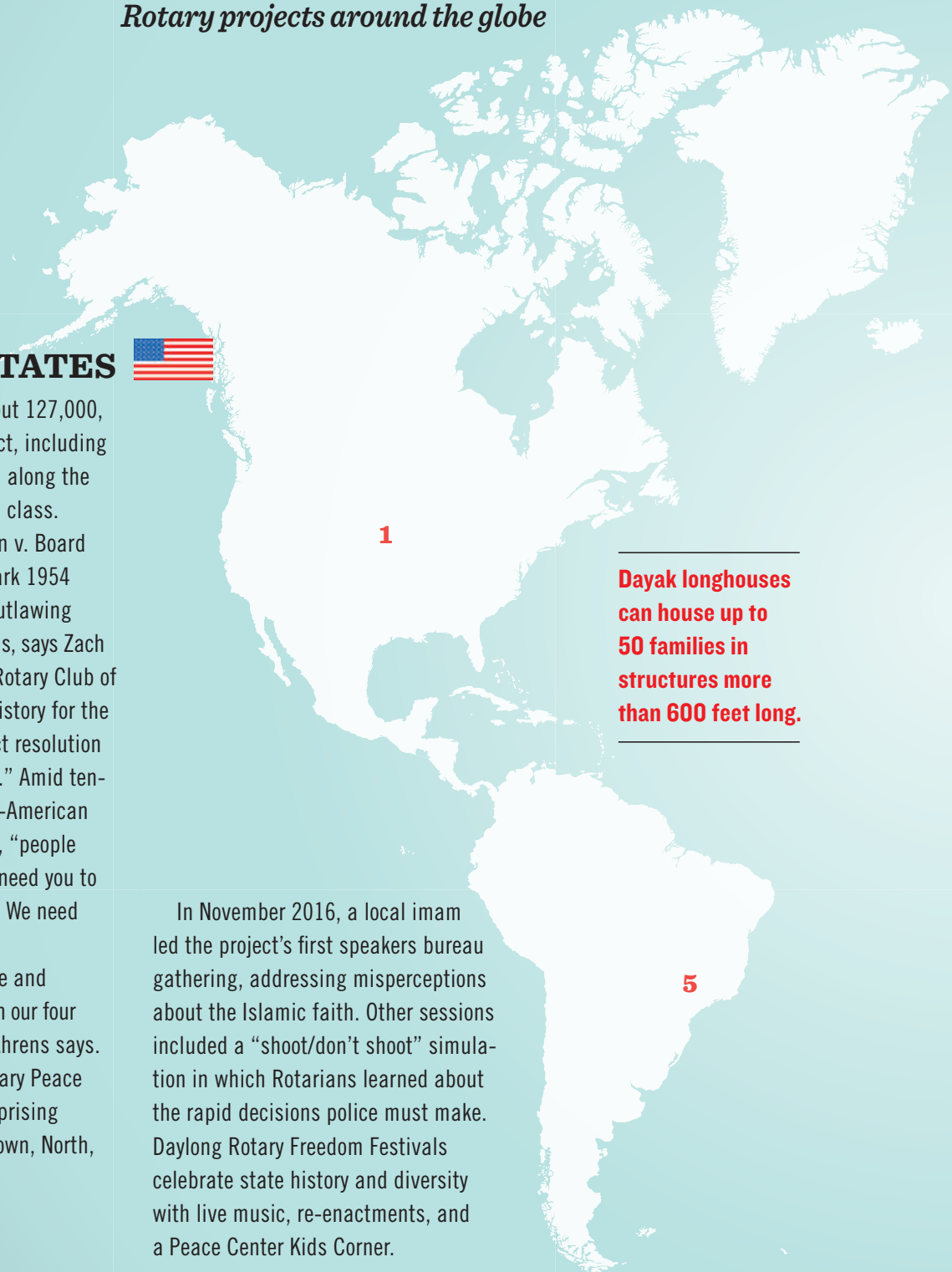
TR: What did you learn from your time as a Rotary Peace Fellow?

D'SILVA: I learned that the work we are doing that we used to call "pre-emptive" is actually peacebuilding. We're trying to help people understand gender stereotypes that reinforce toxic masculinity on a daily basis, give them a safe space to discuss this and understand each other's point of view, and help them navigate these complex issues and be agents of change.

–ANNE FORD

World Roundup

Rotary projects around the globe



1] UNITED STATES

Topeka, Kan., a city of about 127,000, is not immune from conflict, including misunderstandings drawn along the lines of race, religion, and class. "We are the home of Brown v. Board of Education," the landmark 1954 Supreme Court decision outlawing racial segregation in schools, says Zach Ahrens, a member of the Rotary Club of Topeka. "There's a lot of history for the need for peace and conflict resolution right here in our backyard." Amid tensions between the African-American community and the police, "people came to us and said, 'We need you to step in and do something. We need you to say something.' "

"We wanted to facilitate and engage in conversation with our four Rotary clubs in Topeka," Ahrens says. The result: the Topeka Rotary Peace and Justice initiative comprising Rotarians from the downtown, North, South, and West clubs.

In November 2016, a local imam led the project's first speakers bureau gathering, addressing misperceptions about the Islamic faith. Other sessions included a "shoot/don't shoot" simulation in which Rotarians learned about the rapid decisions police must make. Daylong Rotary Freedom Festivals celebrate state history and diversity with live music, re-enactments, and a Peace Center Kids Corner.

by BRAD WEBBER

Dayak longhouses can house up to 50 families in structures more than 600 feet long.

2] ENGLAND

About a dozen members of the Rotary Club of Wylde Green, in the West Midlands, joined 30 pupils from the Wilson Stuart School and their teachers and caretakers on an outing to Drayton Manor theme park in Staffordshire. They were among the 4,600 underprivileged youth and children with disabilities who converged on the theme park, compliments of District 1060 Rotarians in conjunction with the National Rotary KidsOut Day. "It was wonderful to see the joy on the children's faces as they experienced the various rides," including Thomas the Tank Engine-themed attractions, says club member Arthur Law. KidsOut Day, a June fixture, sponsors some 25,000 children for visits to more than 90 venues, including the seaside, theme parks, zoos, and playgrounds.

650,000 children have participated in KidsOut Day in the U.K. over 27 years.

3] MALAYSIA

Serving as homes and community hubs, longhouses are central to the lives of the indigenous Dayak people of Borneo. "They can be thought of as indoor villages, housing entire communities under one roof," says Linnie Lee, past president of the Rotary Club of Bintulu Central. But the multifamily wooden structures are fire-prone – with fires harder to fight because of their remote rainforest locations. Since 2011, members of the club have trekked across Sarawak state to equip more than 100 longhouses with over 1,700 fire extinguishers. Training and refresher courses are a crucial component of the $27,000 project, which has garnered sponsorships from various companies, a hospital system, and philanthropic groups, says Lee.

4] TANZANIA

A presentation to Rotarians by Gemma Sisia, the Australian founder of the School of St. Jude, so enchanted Alex McKenzie of the Rotary Club of St. Johns in Auckland, New Zealand, that he and his wife, Wendy, committed to what became a 12-year relationship with the nondenominational Christian school in Arusha. The couple volunteered at the school for three months earlier this year, with Wendy serving as a primary school teacher mentor and Alex performing badly needed maintenance chores. With initial funding from the Rotary clubs of Armidale, Tamworth, and Inverell in Australia, the school opened in 2002 with three pupils; it now educates 1,800 students on three campuses.

5] BRAZIL

A church group trip to renovate a senior center in an impoverished Brazilian community prompted Wes Toy, past president of the Rotary Club of Saratoga, Calif., to look for more ways to help. In 2014 the Saratoga club tapped a district designated fund of more than $12,000 to furnish an infirmary in Caconde, about 140 miles north of São Paulo, with beds, tables, and medical equipment and supplies. The Californians returned two years later and, under the direction of Francke Megda Blascke, past president of the Rotary Club of Caconde, spent $5,300 to erect a 4,000-gallon water tank at an orphanage.

Literacy project brings hope to B.C. communities

One book can open up a world of imagination – and so can asking a question. Bob Blacker of the Rotary Club of Steveston-Richmond, B.C., recalls a pivotal conversation with Judge Steven L. Point, former lieutenant governor of British Columbia and a member of the Skowkale Nation, about Rotary's projects donating books overseas.

"He asked me about what Rotary was doing for books in our own backyard, and I couldn't answer him," recalls Blacker, a former police officer and Point's aide-de-camp at the time. "We weren't doing anything. He said, 'I want to get books out to isolated First Nation communities in British Columbia.'"

Shirley-Pat Chamberlain, of the Rotary Club of Williams Lake Daybreak, B.C., also knew there was a need to bring books to rural and remote indigenous communities. In the village of Toosey (Tl'esqox), where many members of the Toosey First Nation live, the nearest library was a 45-minute drive away. During a May 2010 visit to the village school, Chamberlain asked education coordinator Shirley Diablo to see the community's literacy resources, already knowing what the answer would be.

"She pointed to the bookshelf in the band office and said, 'That's it,'" Chamberlain says. "On the bookshelf was a 1962 *Encyclopaedia Britannica* set with four volumes missing."

A subsequent discussion led Point, Blacker, and Chamberlain to the idea "of maybe bringing more than a bag of books but using Rotary to sponsor 'a little bookshelf' for each community in their area," says Chamberlain.

The Write to Read Project has installed more than a few bookshelves: It has resulted in 14 libraries in rural and remote indigenous communities in British Columbia, with plans for four more by the end of 2017.

The project has brought 3,000 to 4,000 books to each library. The libraries are in small villages in remote areas accessible only by poor roads, boat, or plane.

"We had a lot of things that we had to overcome," says Blacker, past governor of District 5040. "No. 1, where were we going to get the books? Two, how we're going to put them in the library, and, three, what about a building? We need a building."

It turned out that getting enough books really wasn't a problem.

The first library, installed in Toosey in 2011, received books donated locally and by Rotarians around the district. Chamberlain, who was a community adult literacy program coordinator, also stocked the library with indigenous-specific books and those for adult literacy.

Word got around, and now books are coming from around the world. The Rotary Club of Commerce City, Colo., sends members George and Sharon Maybee every other year with a horse trailer full of books, Chamberlain says.

"We actually had to turn them down – we asked them to wait until next year," she says. "We've run out of space."

Blacker recruited a team of volunteer librarians to catalog

COURTESY OF WRITE TO READ PROJECT

COURTESY OF WRITE TO READ PROJECT

OPPOSITE: Write to Read team members (from left) Bill Humphries, Liz Wilson, Barbara Aven, Margaret Fletcher, and Bob Blacker. THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: A team reviews plans for a new library for Bella Bella; a rendering of a learning center designed for the community of Xeni Gwet'in; members of the Toosey community enjoy their new library; one of the smaller libraries is hauled to the village of Metlakatla.

and install the books, which are stored and sorted in donated storage units (the project now has five filled with books waiting for new libraries). Britco, which supplied modular buildings to the 2010 Olympics, donated a dozen 10-by-40-foot units to the initiative, and architects and builders have donated time and materials to constructing new facilities.

In all, more than 30 corporate sponsors have contributed to the successful project, Blacker says. And Point's successor as lieutenant governor (his term ended in 2012) has supported the initiative as well. Lt. Gov. Judith Guichon has officiated at the opening of all of the Write to Read libraries established since 2012.

New libraries are also creating learning centers stocked with iPad Minis and refurbished computers. The design of these centers is driven by the community residents themselves, who sit down with architect Scott Kemp to come up with a plan that fits their needs. In one community, young people requested a recording studio, Chamberlain says.

"They said, 'We would like to be able to sit with our elders one on one and have them talk to us in our language, teach us our stories, and record their songs,'" Chamberlain says.

Communities are also working to improve internet connectivity, because "there is a huge yearning in the communities to do online learning," Blacker says. "They've got many adults who would like to educate themselves – many didn't go further than grade five or six, and they want to improve their life."

In addition to providing reading material and a pathway to education, the library construction is opening up apprenticeships for local youth with carpenters and other professionals.

"It's not only creating healthy spaces in the community, but also increasing employment in these communities," Chamberlain says.

The project has had other positive side effects as well. Because the books are cataloged by librarians, children learn where to find their favorite books – so when they go to a larger library, they know where to look, she says.

Chamberlain, who is an adopted member of the Toosey community, says the project has led to other successes bringing in grants for community development and renovation projects.

"There's a level of confidence in that community that really wasn't there before," she says. "It's really a 'why not us' attitude instead of 'why us.'" –NIKKI KALLIO

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IN BRIEF

News, studies, and recent research

Ten minutes of daily meditation can help stop the mind from wandering and is especially useful to those who experience repetitive, anxious thoughts throughout the day. Researchers at the University of Waterloo in Ontario studied the effect of mindful meditation – defined as paying attention in the present moment, without judgment – on 82 participants who experienced anxiety. They found that meditation helped participants focus on an assigned task and filter out interruptions. Findings appeared in *Consciousness and Cognition*.

Conflict, violence, and disaster displaced some 31 million people within their own countries in 2016, according to the 2017 *Global Report on Internal Displacement*. Internally displaced populations often don't get international attention until they cross borders. Conflict and violence forced 6.9 million from their homes last year, uprooting the most people in the Democratic Republic of Congo (922,000), Syria (824,000), and Iraq (659,000). Disasters, particularly floods, displaced 24 million people, mostly in South and East Asia.

Low-income black students are more likely to graduate from high school and consider college when they have at least one black teacher in elementary school, according to Johns Hopkins University research. A low-income black student's probability of dropping out was reduced by 29 percent when the student had at least one black teacher; for very low-income black males, chances of dropping out fell 39 percent. The study, published by the Institute of Labor Economics, credits the teacher's standing as an inspiring role model.

American toddlers have bad eating habits that set the stage for unhealthy futures, according to data from the *National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey*. Mothers detailed their children's meals on two random days, and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill researchers found that one in four babies (ages six to 11 months) and one in five one-year-olds didn't eat vegetables on either day. Consumption of dark green vegetables by one-year-olds declined more than 50 percent between 2005 and 2012. Food preferences among Americans are developed at around six months.

–ANNE STEIN

CLUB INNOVATION

A young club shows the drive to thrive

Club:
Rotary Club of Bentley Cheshire, England

Members: 25
***Youngest member*:** 24
***Oldest member*:** 62
***Average age*:** 43

This vibrant new club's membership comes mostly from employees at the Bentley automobile plant, a diverse workforce from around the world. The club keeps track of meeting attendance and volunteer hours so that members get full credit for all their participation.

History:
The club started as a satellite of the Rotary Club of Crewe & Nantwich Weaver. Since then, it has supported 38 local service projects such as improving a hospital cancer unit's garden and running a Family Fun Day to raise funds for a local charity.

In 2015, Mike Constable, then president-elect of the Rotary Club of Crewe & Nantwich Weaver, started thinking about satellite clubs. Around the same time, club President Mark Schofield and Past President Peter Saunders were working to grant honorary membership to Wolfgang Dürheimer, the CEO of Bentley Motors, a major local employer.

Here was an opportunity: Bentley has a diverse, energetic workforce from around the globe. Dürheimer liked the idea that employees could get involved with the Rotary club and become part of the local community. A team from Crewe & Nantwich Weaver began setting up a satellite club, coordinating with Bentley.

Knowing that the Council on Legislation was reviewing membership and meeting rules, Constable and the team gave the satellite club a relaxed set of rules. Members record their hours volunteering and attending club meetings so that their total contribution of time is recognized. After meeting as a satellite for over a year, the Rotary Club of Bentley Cheshire was chartered in May. The membership is largely but not exclusively made up of Bentley employees and represents nine nationalities.

Club members celebrate the chartering in May.

The meetings are very efficient and focused, alternating between a meeting room at Bentley and local pubs and restaurants. "We do not charge for meals or drinks as we don't always have meals and drinks," explains club Secretary Sarah Newcombe. "We have our meeting first, then the ones who wish to stay for food do and the others can either stay and just have a drink or can go home. I liken it to a pay-as-you-go phone rather than a contract you are tied into."

The club carefully tracks members' financial contribution and participation in projects. In 2016-17, it recorded over 1,000 hours of service.

At the Family Fun Day, club members and kids made clay animals.

Activities reflect the members' creative energy. In July, a team including both club members and nonmembers tackled the National Three Peaks Challenge. The team climbed Ben Nevis in Scotland, Scafell Pike in England, and Snowdon in Wales, all within 24 hours. The challenge raised funds for Hope House, a children's hospice, and the club hopes it will also be a recruiting tool to get those nonmembers on the team to join.

And in November, the club will host the Snow Ball, with UK Björn, an Abba tribute band, getting people out on the dance floor. Conveniently enough, the band manager and lead guitarist, Steve Robinson, works at Bentley. Other ideas for events include a treasure hunt by car and a Rotary's Got Talent contest.

Newcombe notes that, in keeping with the club's origin story, its leaders are focused on growth. "Club President Elena Comis and I have 'Rotary date night' each Tuesday where the pair of us will discuss ideas to increase membership and suggest ideas that we can then present to the team at one of our meetings."

What is your club doing to reinvent itself?
Email **club.innovations@rotary.org.**


END
OLIO
NOW

WHERE IN THE WORLD

Maiduguri, Nigeria

While working on our May story on polio surveillance in Nigeria, photographer Andrew Esiebo met **BAANA SHABA**, a 27-year-old student and polio survivor. Using this specially adapted cycle with hand pedals to get around, Shaba does volunteer work in the polio vaccination efforts. "Shaba uses his life experience as a polio survivor to preach about the importance of polio vaccination," says Esiebo. He notes that Shaba plans to pursue a career in medicine. "He has not allowed his condition to limit his aspiration to become a doctor."

October

1st SAVOR THE FLAVORS

EVENT: Taste of Rancho Santa Fe
HOST: Rotary Club of Rancho Santa Fe, Calif.
WHAT IT BENEFITS: Local charities
WHAT IT IS: Sample gourmet eats and fine wines from vendors including Rancho Santa Fe restaurants and wineries and California breweries. Guests can bid on jewelry, spa services, entertainment, sports items, and more. Eat, drink, and buy for charity!

7th - 8th ROLL OUT THE BARREL

EVENT: Rotary Oktoberfest of Carroll County
HOSTS: Rotary clubs of Bonds Meadow, Mount Airy, Sykesville, and Westminster, Md.
WHAT IT BENEFITS: Numerous county charities
WHAT IT IS: In addition to the usual Oktoberfest food and drink, look for a "lederhosen and dirndl" contest, a chicken dance contest, and more. Children 10 and under enjoy free admission – and so can you, if you dress in traditional German garb.

14th KICK UP YOUR HEELS

EVENT: Harvest Hoedown & BBQ
HOST: Rotary Club of Calistoga, Calif.
WHAT IT BENEFITS: Local charities
WHAT IT IS: Stomp your feet to good music and eat some delicious barbecue while raising money for scholarships for high school graduates and support for local preschools. Silent and live auctions will provide plenty of fantastic prizes on which to bid.

21st OH, CANADA

EVENT: Shuswap Wine Festival
HOST: Rotary Club of Salmon Arm, B.C.
WHAT IT BENEFITS: Local charities
WHAT IT IS: Taste wines from 25 wineries while sampling gourmet hot and cold appetizers from local eateries. You can bid on wine baskets up for auction. For those who prefer beer, sample sips from local breweries.

28th GLITZ, GHOULS, AND GHOSTS

EVENT: Glamour & Gore Costume Party
HOST: Rotary Club of DeLand, Fla.
WHAT IT BENEFITS: Local charities
WHAT IT IS: Why not get into the Halloween spirit and give to a good cause? A $50 ticket includes appetizers, beer, and wine, as well as a chance to win $1,500 in costume prizes. And of course this wouldn't be a true Halloween bash without a "Monster Mash" dance party.

Tell us about your club's event. Write to rotarian@rotary.org with "calendar" in the subject line.

PRESIDENTIAL PEACEBUILDING CONFERENCES 2018

10 FEBRUARY 2018
VANCOUVER, CANADA | Zones 24, 25, and 26,
Environmental Sustainability Rotarian Action Group,
Rotarian Action Group for Peace
environmentandpeace.com

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The first of six presidential peacebuilding conferences will examine sustainable global and local environmental practices, and their contributions to peacebuilding and peacemaking. Participants will discuss the impact of environmental issues on health, fresh air, clean water, vegetation, and food production – and how improved environmental conditions are a fundamental condition of building peace within communities. The conference will bring together community leaders, youth, and representatives from the public, private, and government sectors. Attendees also can participate in a hands-on service project the morning after the conference.

17 FEBRUARY 2018
BEIRUT, LEBANON
District 2452
rotaryd2452.org/new/index.php/conference-home

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE

Access to water, one of the world's most valuable commodities, has united and divided communities around the globe. The conference will examine access to water, sanitation, and programs to support the development of sound hygiene practices as peacebuilding agents. Join the Rotary family, community members, industry professionals, and government leaders to explore opportunities to improve relationships and mitigate conflict through water, sanitation, and hygiene initiatives in the Middle East.

24 FEBRUARY 2018
COVENTRY, UNITED KINGDOM | Zones 17 and 18A
and Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland
www.rotarygbi.org/peacebuilding-conference-2018/

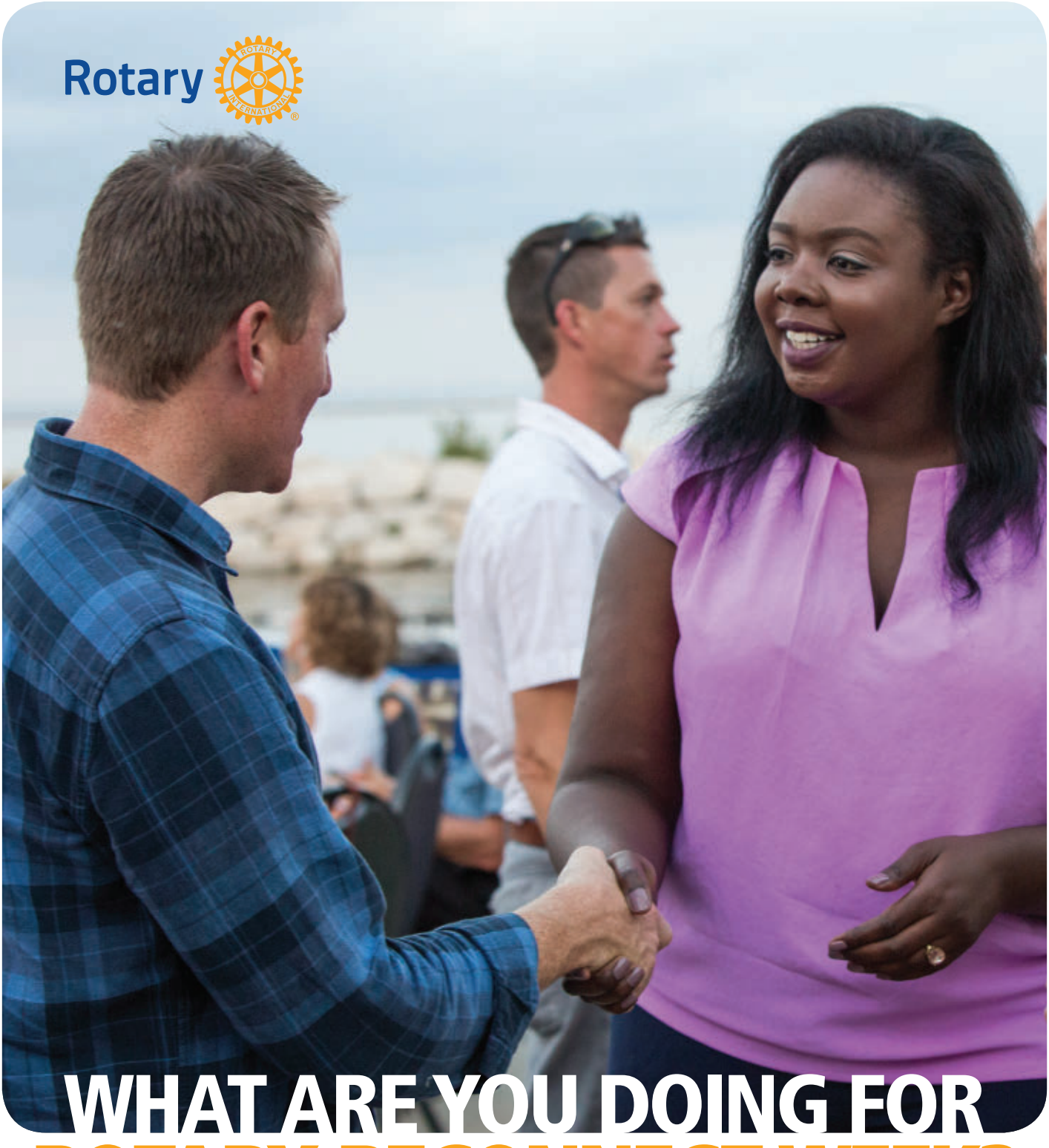
DISEASE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT

This conference will explore how access to preventive health services and treatment of diseases helps foster peace and bring stability to communities. The program includes general and breakout sessions, with concurrent tracks for youth. Join the Rotary family, young leaders, community members, civic dignitaries, scholars, medical professionals, and university and business experts in the field of research for disease prevention and treatment for this one-day program in the historic International City of Peace.

Rotary

ROTARY: MAKING A DIFFERENCE

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
rotary.org/presidential-conferences



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Alumni of Rotary Peace Fellowships, youth programs, and scholarships are an important part of the Rotary family. With your help, they can be one step closer to a lifetime of service with Rotary. Invite alumni in your area to renew their connection to Rotary.

Game changer

Rotarians in Pittsfield, Mass., tout their town as baseball's true birthplace

by **KEVIN COOK**

DAVE CUTLER

If you're a baseball fan, you probably think of Cooperstown, N.Y., as the game's birthplace. That's why the Hall of Fame is there, right?

But the Cooperstown story is a myth. The Hall of Fame itself refers to the "mythical first game" there. That first ballgame, supposedly played in 1839, is the sort of alternative fact the *New York American* sportswriter Damon Runyon called "the old phonus balonus."

So where did baseball really start?

"Right here," says Phil Massery, pointing at the turf beneath his feet. We're at Rotary Park in Pittsfield, a cozy town in western Massachusetts. He and 30 other Rotarians are enjoying a summer barbecue in lieu of their usual meeting at a hotel. The park, with its playground built by Massery and other members of the Pittsfield club, adjoins a Little League diamond.

Wherever you go in Pittsfield, baseball is nearby.

"I've got nothing against Cooperstown," Massery says, "but people should know the Hall of Fame is there by mistake." He laughs. "I doubt they'll move it here, though."

Sitting in the shade with library director Alex Reczkowski, insurance agent John Murphy, and other local leaders, Massery, a real estate broker, tells the true story of baseball's history. "It starts with Cooperstown, all right, but not the way people think." Back in 1904, sporting goods tycoon Albert Spalding named a panel of experts to determine how the national pastime had begun. But Spalding didn't want to hear that the sport had evolved from English games such as cricket and rounders. He said – and this is a direct quote – "Our good old American game of baseball must have an American Dad." So it got one. The panel declared that Civil War Gen. Abner Doubleday invented baseball in Cooperstown in 1839. Never mind that Doubleday was a plebe at West Point at the time. Never mind that Doubleday never claimed to have anything to do with inventing baseball. (One historian wrote that the man "didn't know a baseball from a kumquat.") Fans and sportswriters bought the story, and the Hall of Fame opened in Cooperstown in 1939 to mark the 100th anniversary of the First Game that never was.

"Now flash-forward 65 years," Massery says. In 2004 John Thorn, Major League Baseball's official historian, discovered a document written in Pittsfield in 1791. "George Washington was president. There were still only 13 states. But there was already baseball here in Pittsfield. How do we know? Because kids were knocking windows out of the town church!"

City fathers didn't want rocks, horsehide-covered balls, or anything else pocking the First Congregational meetinghouse. They had paid Charles Bulfinch, the architect who was about to design the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., to build it. So they passed a local law. "For the Preservation of the Windows in the New Meeting House," it read, "no Person, an Inhabitant of said Town, shall be permitted to play at any Game called Wicket, Cricket, Baseball … or any other Game or Games with Balls within the Distance of Eighty Yards." This was the first known mention of the national game in American history. As Thorn announced at a press conference, "It's clear that not only was baseball played here in 1791, but it was rampant."

A Hall of Fame spokesman called the discovery "incredibly monumental."

"Pittsfield," crowed then-Mayor James Ruberto, "is baseball's Garden of Eden."

Today the Rotary club holds its regular meetings at a hotel a block from Park Square. It's a long fly ball from there to the spot where schoolkids played 226 years ago. In those days, Park Square was a grassy block at the crossing of the town's main roads. It would have taken quite a clout to launch a ball from there to the meetinghouse. You would think such a shot might earn a kid a hip-hip-hooray. But the descendants of the Puritans frowned on such displays, so we can imagine the young Pittsfielders pioneering something like today's walk-off home run. Somebody smacks a long one, they all wait for the sound of breaking glass and run off as fast as they can.

What was the game like in those days? "The basepaths would have been shorter than they are today," says historian Thorn. "The ball would be smaller than the one we're used to, and softer. Fielders would throw base runners out by 'soaking' them – hitting them with the ball."

More than two centuries later, Park Square is a leafy ellipse in the middle of a busy traffic circle. It's a couple hundred

"George Washington was president. But there was already baseball here in Pittsfield. How do we know? Because kids were knocking windows out of the town church!"

feet from there to the towering First Church of Christ on the site of the old meetinghouse and the small plaque beside the church. ON THIS SITE IN 1791, it reads, A NEW MEETING HOUSE OF THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL PARISH IN PITTSFIELD WAS BEING COMPLETED WHEN SEVERAL OF ITS WINDOWS WERE BROKEN AS A RESULT OF BALL GAMES. But few visitors notice the plaque. Even among people born and raised here, as Massery was, few know that Park Square is a special place.

"That's our own fault," he says. "We haven't done enough to get the word out."

At the barbecue, talk turns to baseball. Club President Jeff Hassett recalls his dad's days running the local Babe Ruth League. Another Rotarian remembers his Little League years, when his coach said that "we had a tradition to uphold – years and years of Pittsfield baseball. Thousands of years, I thought. Maybe *millions*. I was 12!" Reczkowski mentions that the library he runs is where the 1791 document was found. "We've got it in a vault," says the library director, who knows his local lore. "Our minor league diamond, Wahconah Park, is one of only two in America that face west. Did you know that? It means that the batter looks right into the late-afternoon sun. We've got a park that has rain delays and sun delays. And our team, of course, is called the Suns."

Of course they all know why other ballparks face east. It's so the batter has the afternoon sun behind him. That means the pitcher faces west, which is why left-handers are called southpaws.

Eric Schaffer used to watch his beloved Chicago Cubs on jumbo screens in Las Vegas casinos. Schaffer, who moved east with his Pittsfield-born wife 20 years ago, likes the "baseball feel" of New England and the regular-folks vibe of the local Rotary club. "It's nice and casual here," he says. "Plus the fines aren't so bad. My cell goes off at a meeting in Pittsfield, OK, I'll pay a dollar. The Vegas Rotary met at Harrah's – there were some high rollers in that club. My phone went off in Vegas and it was, 'Schaffer, that's a $100 fine.'"

He and Massery and the others agree that Pittsfield could use an extra dose of pilgrims' pride. "We should be one of the capitals of baseball," Massery says. "I'm not saying *the* capital, but we really should be better known."

The Hall of Fame at Cooperstown now recognizes Pittsfield, displaying a copy of the 1791 document near the front door. Serious fans know about the game's roots in Pittsfield. "So why aren't we capitalizing on it?" Massery asks. He did his part by paying for hundreds of baseball caps emblazoned "1791." Local Rotarians wear them. But now he's thinking bigger. He has his eyes on an abandoned building downtown. "We could turn it into a tourist attraction, our own little hall of fame."

And what if someone finds evidence of a still-earlier baseball game? Wouldn't that spoil everything?

"I feel good about our claim to fame. We got a lot of attention when the document turned up. Since then, every town in New England has had 13 years to rummage through its records. If they were going to beat us, they'd have done it by now." ■

Kevin Cook is a member of the Rotary club of Northampton, Mass., and a frequent contributor to The Rotarian. *His latest book,* Electric October, *is about the epic 1947 World Series.*

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Rotary PEOPLE OF ACTION

The fun in fundraising

With the right event, even small clubs can make a big impact

by **NANCY SHEPHERDSON**

DAVE CUTLER

You might think that an 18-member Rotary club would be satisfied with donating a few thousand dollars to its community each year. For some small clubs, even that sum would likely come out of its members' own pockets.

Yet the Rotary Club of Lake in the Hills, Ill., donates close to $90,000 each year to worthy local and international causes. The Rotarians created an event that draws as many as 20,000 people from the village and surrounding far northwest suburbs of Chicago. Taking advantage of a circuit of rib chefs who travel the country appearing at similar fests, the Rockin' RibFest, which runs for four days in July, also features an amateur rib cook-off, food booths (often staffed by other Rotary clubs), and live music. Since its modest beginnings in 2005, the RibFest has become the club's signature event and an annual tradition for many area families.

Jim Wales remembers how it got started. Members of the club, which had been chartered only the year before, decided they wanted to focus on one fundraiser per year. "People get tired if you try to do more than that," says Wales. "But we realized that we couldn't do a really big fundraiser by ourselves." Lake in the Hills Rotarians put out the call for volunteers and emphasized that the money raised would stay in the community. Youth groups were offered a $5 donation for every volunteer hour worked. Today, some groups take home several thousand dollars a year.

Planning for the first fest took eight months, says Wales. "Our attitude was that failure was not an option. We wanted, above all, to be beneficial to all concerned."

According to a survey conducted by the firm Software Advice, fundraising events that include nonsport competitions, such as the RibFest, are the easiest for small nonprofits such as Rotary clubs to pull off successfully. Such events combine relative ease of execution with the lowest cost per dollar raised. Other high-earning, relatively low-cost community fundraisers include fun runs and walks.

The Rotary Club of Fullerton, Calif., with 117 members, started its Jog-a-Thon in 2013. The club works with local middle and high schools to recruit students to run laps one day in October. Students collect pledges for the laps they plan to complete, and most of that money is returned to the clubs or schools of the kids who run.

Every year, about 1,500 students raise as much as $40,000 for their own causes. The event also earns about $15,000 annually for End Polio Now – a contribution that, like all donations to Rotary's polio eradication effort, is matched 2-to-1 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Fullerton Rotarians plan the event, volunteer on event day, solicit sponsorships and food donations from local businesses – and let the kids do the hard work (the running). The only major expense is for T-shirts that continue to promote Rotary long after the event is over.

For the club, this event is at least as

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much about teaching kids about polio eradication as it is about fundraising, says 2016-17 Club President Dan Ouweleen, who adds, "We can easily shift it to teaching about another cause once polio becomes a thing of the past."

Traditionally, many club fundraisers have depended heavily on members and their friends for donations. Through galas and auctions, for example, clubs can raise large sums but may find returns stagnating or dropping if they go back to the same people year after year.

"There are two categories of big fundraisers: an event-driven activity that happens to be a fundraiser and the cause-based fundraiser that's relevant to the community," says David Waring, past governor of District 6440 (Illinois). "If you can combine the two, you've got a winner." Most people just want to have fun, he notes, and if they do, they won't mind spending some money.

When planning a big event, suggests Waring, think about the consequences of success as much as those of failure. "You make the really big money on projects that are scalable, so consider what you will do to accommodate growth. Can you bring in more people with minimal extra effort?"

Rotarians in Oshkosh, Wis., have done that with their ice-fishing festival – once they got their idea past a skeptical board, that is. The two-day Battle on Bago, first held in 2008 and now put on by a foundation created by the Rotary Club of Oshkosh Southwest, helps kids learn to fish, supports local conservation efforts, and raises more than $50,000 a year on average as it attracts thousands of participants to nearby Lake Winnebago in February.

"The board looked at us and said, 'You want to do this on the ice, in the winter, in Wisconsin. Who's going to show up?'" laughs Lori Davis, one of the originators of the idea. Board members OK'd the plan but budgeted only $1,200 the first year for expenses. So the club set about proving that it was a good idea.

It is now the largest ice-fishing event in the Midwestern United States (there's now a summer event as well), requiring a

23,000-square-foot tent to accommodate the vendors (all fishing-oriented), the prizes, and the participants. In 2016, hundreds of prizes worth a total of $275,000 included trucks, boats, and fishing trips, attractive enough in themselves. But what makes this event different is that prizes are awarded randomly. At the Battle on Bago, even the smallest child who lands the tiniest fish has the opportunity to win a big prize.

"There is not one single way of fundraising," says Quentin Wodon, a member of the Rotary Club of Capitol Hill (Washington, D.C.) and author of a blog called the *Rotarian Economist*. "Different clubs have different strengths."

In Wiarton, Ont., Rotarians' strength is a unique venue – a fellow member's elk and maple syrup farm, the setting for the club's annual Maple Magic festival.

Maple Magic is not the Rotary Club of Wiarton's biggest fundraiser – that would be the annual village fair, which generates about CA$100,000 for the 30-member club. But the fair dates to the club's founding in 1938 and was becoming a little tired. Eric Robinson, the club's fundraising chair and the owner of the Regal Point Elk Farm, brought the idea for Maple Magic to the club in 2011.

"You need to have a clever idea to get the community behind you," he advises. "Be as innovative as you can and bring out something new every year to keep people interested in coming back." The event, which offers people the chance to see elk up close, enjoy lots of maple treats, and take part in feats of strength such as a log-sawing contest, attracts around 2,000 kids and adults and generates CA$18,000 in revenue each year.

Even big fundraisers seem to become most successful when fundraising is less important to the club than creating fun. That makes sense to Wodon. "All clubs should try to identify a flagship community event," he says. "If you just fundraise to fundraise, people get tired of you asking." ■

Nancy Shepherdson is a freelance writer in Deer Park, Ill., and a member of the Rotary Club of Lake Zurich, Ill.

A PLACE

In the suburbs of Atlanta, Rotarians are filling a gap in social services to help struggling families get back on their feet

TO CALL HOME

by **Vanessa Glavinskas**
photography by **Alyce Henson**

It's a sunny Friday afternoon in the quiet suburbs of Atlanta. Beatrice is at home with her 10-year-old daughter, who is practicing the trumpet. Her older daughter, age 12, is at her first school dance. It's a rare moment of relaxation for the family amid their usual activities – church, homework, chores. It's hard to imagine now, but just seven years ago, Beatrice was homeless. Social service programs, with the support of Rotary, helped her get back on her feet, and today she's a homeowner with a master's degree.

In early 2006, Beatrice arrived home to find her husband in a rage. With bills and the mortgage adding up, the family was in danger of losing their house, and John* (**name changed*) had reached some kind of breaking point. "I'm not going to do this anymore," he told her. "It's all going to end."

Beatrice, who was pregnant with their second daughter, scooped up Maya*, who was then 18 months old, to shield her from his anger. She remembered a statistic she had recently read: One in five deaths of pregnant women is a homicide. She had felt John's fury before. Mostly he would yell, but sometimes he would punch a wall. Other times, he had pushed her or thrown something at her.

With her family an ocean away in her native Kenya and a small child to care for, Beatrice felt she had few options. She was in the United States on a student visa, studying accounting. "But that day, I knew something had to give," she says. "When you see that kind of rage in someone's eyes, it's very scary." She had applied for a green card, and although the couple were just a week away from their interview, she couldn't risk staying. "I thought, I may die waiting for that interview."

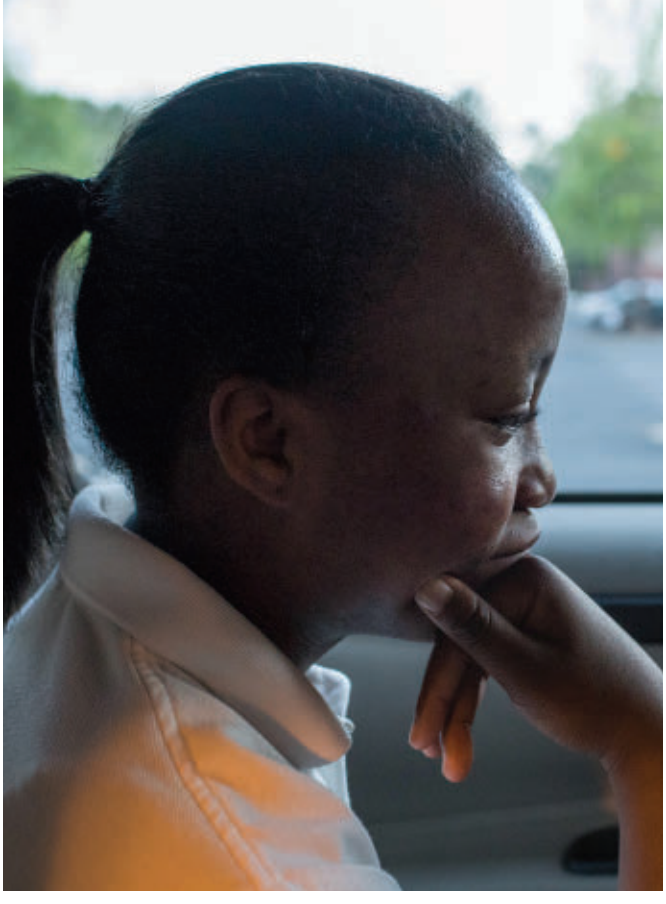
When John went to bed, she called a friend from church who knew about her situation. She whispered into the phone, "Pat, I'm scared for my life." The women made plans to meet the next day. Beatrice held her daughter and waited for morning to come.

John, an elevator engineer, started work early, around 6 a.m. As soon as she heard him leave, she called Pat again and they agreed to meet at 9 so she would have time to pack her things. At 6:30, the door opened. John was back. Beatrice quickly hid everything she had been gathering, picked up her purse and daughter, and called out that she was going out to visit a sick friend. "I left with just the clothes I had on and Maya in her PJs."

This was supposed to be a story about the working poor. But to write about the estimated 10 million Americans who work yet live below the poverty line, you encounter the same people again and again: single mothers like Beatrice.

Nearly 40 percent of single mothers in the United States live in poverty. The cost of child care eats up much of their take-home pay, so some move in with relatives or a boyfriend. Others are forced to rent substandard apartments in dangerous neighborhoods. Many minimum-wage workers don't have health insurance through their employers and are one serious illness away from

Previous pages: *Beatrice stayed in this HomeStretch unit for several years after losing her home. "It saved my life," she says.* ***Right:*** *The family wakes before dawn to give Beatrice enough time to drop off the girls at school before taking the train to work.*




Southbound
To Street
To Buses


NF
CC
FOOD PANTRY
DONATIONS


ALPHARETTA
ROTARY
INTERNATIONAL


FALCONS
EST. 1966

There's little public transportation, affordable housing is limited, and most social service organizations are based in the city. That's where Rotary comes in.

losing everything. In fact, that's how Beatrice, who had started to rebuild her life after leaving John, became homeless: She got sick.

After three months in a shelter, Beatrice rented an apartment. She found an internship and was making $15 an hour. Life was difficult for an expectant mother with a toddler, a job, and night classes, but she made it work. Pat watched Maya while Beatrice was at school in the evenings. She continued to work on her degree so she wouldn't lose her student visa.

In December, she gave birth to a second daughter. Ella* suffered from severe sleep apnea and was in intensive care for a week. When she came home, she needed constant monitoring to make sure she didn't stop breathing. No day care facility would accept the risk of caring for her, and Beatrice's internship didn't offer paid leave. "Now I'm in an apartment and I can't work. I couldn't pay for it," she says. "In the meantime, I lost my friend Pat. She died of complications from the flu."

Luckily, other friends helped her find another job, and with her church's support, she was able to stay in her apartment. When Ella turned six months old, Beatrice started working again. But a month later, she felt a terrible pain in her side and passed out at the office.

As suburban poverty continues to rise around Atlanta, the Rotary Club of Alpharetta has forged deeper relationships with local social service organizations. ***Clockwise from top left:*** *Member Glennette Haynes attends an Alpharetta club meeting; Lee Doernberg delivers food to North Fulton Community Charities. Haynes, an interior designer, has donated her services to several HomeStretch graduates. Alpharetta Rotarians Karen Nolan* ***(left)*** *and Cathy Shanley help stock the kitchen before a new family moves into a HomeStretch unit.*

After emergency surgery for an ovarian cyst, Beatrice developed a blood clot that nearly killed her. Her new employer couldn't wait for her to recover and replaced her. Once again Beatrice had no income, no insurance – and this time she had $115,000 in hospital bills. She lost the apartment. "That's how I ended up at HomeStretch," she says.

HomeStretch offers temporary housing for homeless families in the suburbs north of Atlanta. The organization's units are situated on a quiet cul-de-sac in Roswell, a town with good schools and parks filled with children.

It's not where you would expect to find a growing homelessness problem, but, between 2000 and 2011, the number of suburban poor in the Atlanta area grew by 159 percent. Today, the majority of Atlanta's low-income families live outside the city. This has been happening across the United States as public housing reform and gentrification push low-income families to the suburbs, but it is particularly pronounced here. In fact, researchers at the Brookings Institution have called Atlanta the "epicenter of suburban poverty in America."

Atlanta's northern suburbs are a difficult place to live if you're poor. There's little public transportation, affordable housing is limited, and most social service organizations are still based in the city. That's where Rotary comes in.

Where the suburban social safety net has holes, the Rotary Club of Alpharetta fills the gaps. For years, the club has been forming partnerships to bolster the work of social service agencies across north Fulton County. In 2001, the club began supporting Home-

Club members take on tasks large and small: from providing basics such as food and clothing to helping a family secure a car loan.

Stretch, where Beatrice lived for three years. Alpharetta Rotarians also support an emergency housing complex for single mothers called the Drake House. "We develop substantial relationships with our partners," explains club member Karen Nolan, noting that this makes it easier for the agencies to reach out to the club for help. Club members take on tasks large and small, from providing basics such as food and clothing to helping a family secure a car loan.

The club also supports a food pantry at North Fulton Community Charities (NFCC). Every weekday for more than 20 years, a Rotarian has made the trip to Fresh Market grocery store, picked up two or three carts of donated food, and taken it to the pantry. Every member of the club has volunteered to make the delivery. It's the club's longest-running service project.

"I never have to worry they won't show up," says Melody Fortin, the pantry's manager. Vonda Malbrough, a director at NFCC, says she can call on the club for just about anything: "This is a community of people who will go above and beyond," she says. NFCC helps families across the county with many aspects of daily living, including food, clothing vouchers, and utility assistance. In the fall, Rotarians pitch in to help stuff backpacks for the children of the families who rely on NFCC's assistance.

At HomeStretch, the Rotary Club of Alpharetta supports one unit – helping pay the rent, furnishing and decorating the space, and providing food and toiletries. When Beatrice was at HomeStretch, she saw how Rotarians helped in other ways too. Club members fixed up a little garden near her unit. They watched her daughters and other children while she attended a weekly life skills class, a mandatory part of the HomeStretch program.

HomeStretch relies on a network of community volunteers, including Rotarians, to run its financial mentoring program. Sidney Browning, a financial planner and a member of the Rotary Club of Alpharetta, mentored Sophelia, a single mother with a teenage son. He taught her the basics of budgeting and how to pay down debt, but soon realized she would continue to struggle without stable employment.

Sophelia primarily found work through a temp agency but couldn't meet her monthly expenses when her hours fluctuated. Browning thought of all the business owners he knew through Rotary and realized the club's partnership with HomeStretch offered another opportunity: a source of screened candidates for Rotarian employers.

Jim Coyle, a member of the Rotary Club of Roswell, hired Sophelia to work in data entry at his firm, which automates revenue processing for the health care industry. "I built my whole company by finding diamonds in the rough," Coyle says. "I find those employees to be fiercely loyal because they appreciate the opportunity." For her part, Sophelia was thrilled to have health benefits. "I couldn't remember the last time I had insurance," she says.

Past Alpharetta Club President Jason Binder, a 37-year-old with three young children, hopes to take the club's partnerships a step further. "One thing we haven't tackled is transportation," says Binder, who also serves on the Alpharetta City Council. "Mass transit definitely needs to be improved around here. However, that takes years. I began to wonder what we could do as a Rotary club."

When he read about a successful microcredit program, Launch Detroit, in the September 2014 issue of *The Rotarian*, Binder so-

Alpharetta club members Jason Binder ***(top left)*** *and Steve Corder* ***(top right)*** *lend a hand at HomeStretch; Katie Rocco* ***(bottom left)*** *and Randy Schiltz* ***(bottom right)*** *volunteer at a Habitat for Humanity build day. Beatrice and her daughters moved into a Habitat home after she graduated from the HomeStretch program in 2010.*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REASON
YOUR COACH
MAKES YOU
PRACTICE
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"Being here gave me something to aspire to. It made me realize I can give this to my girls. I can give them a good school district and a safe neighborhood."

licited advice from its founder, Michigan Rotarian Larry Wright. After talking with Wright and consulting other Rotarians with financial backgrounds, Binder came up with a proposal – a low-interest car loan program for families at HomeStretch and the Drake House. "Most of the residents are credit risks, so we're working to find a way that the Rotary club can buy off that risk," explains Binder. "We provide funds upfront and buy down the interest rate." The purchaser enjoys a lower interest rate and begins rebuilding her credit.

"Many of our families do not own vehicles," explains Kathy Swahn, executive director of the Drake House. "So we're delighted to work with Jason to pilot a car loan program for our moms."

The club has provided seed money for the new program, which will be managed by a local credit union. Access to a car is incredibly important, especially in the suburbs. "This will open new opportunities for employment, more flexible schedules, less travel time, and better accessibility to child care," adds Swahn.

In 2010, Beatrice graduated from the HomeStretch program. In just three years, she had paid down most of her debt and restored her credit enough to qualify for a home through Habitat for Humanity. On her graduation day, Rotarians were there again – providing a meal after the ceremony and handing out bags full of items for her new home.

Today, life is stable for Beatrice and her girls. ***Clockwise from top left:*** *The family participates in a charity fun run; Ella practices trumpet; Beatrice and her daughters in front of the home she now owns; the girls arrive at school.*

Today, Beatrice has a job as a senior accountant at an international school. She's on relatively good terms with her ex-husband. She earned a master's degree in public administration last year by taking night classes. Money is still tight and there's little time for anything aside from work and raising her girls, but life is stable.

When they moved into their Habitat house, Maya, then six, was relieved. "Now I can learn my address," she said. "We don't have to move anymore." While they were at HomeStretch, therapy funded by Medicaid helped Maya cope with constantly shifting living and day care arrangements.

"They carry those things with them," Beatrice says. "They are in a safe place now, but I think there are remnants of those experiences and memories that will be with them throughout their lives."

Beatrice now mentors another HomeStretch resident. "I hope she can learn from me," she says. "I think it's good to hear from someone who's been through the program. I'm speaking from my own experience."

When Beatrice tells her story, she attributes her success to her own hard work as well as the organizations and people who helped her. "There are very few social services in Alpharetta. They are almost a secret – no one even imagines there are Habitat homes here," she says. But supporting social services in suburban areas is a key part of addressing homelessness, and Rotary clubs are positioned to help fill the gaps.

"You have to let people have a chance, and one way you do that is by giving them a decent neighborhood," Beatrice says. "Being here gave me something to aspire to. It made me realize I can give this to my girls. I can give them a good school district and a safe neighborhood. It boosts morale, integrates you into society – into a good, functional society. You feel like you matter – like you belong." ■

VIKTOR MILLER GAUSA

NOWHERE TO GO

Eviction isn't just a momentary lapse in housing, says Princeton sociologist and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Matthew Desmond: It's often the start of a downward spiral

IT WAS KIDS PLAYING A GAME, a snowball thrown at the wrong car on a cold January day, that led to Arleen's eviction. But that moment created an avalanche of instability in her life and that of her two young sons: a few months at a homeless shelter euphemistically nicknamed "the Lodge"; renting a house without running water, which they had to leave when the city deemed it unfit for human habitation; another in an apartment complex known as a den for drug dealers, which she left after a few months out of concern for her sons' safety. It was yet another move for a kid who attended five schools between seventh and eighth grades, who once missed 17 straight days of school while the family stayed at a domestic violence shelter. The rent on Arleen's next apartment consumed 88 percent of her welfare check, leaving her with less than $100 to last the month. Then there were the costs of a funeral.

Eviction seems so straightforward: You don't pay the rent, you get evicted. But sociologist Matthew Desmond found out that it's not so simple while researching his Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *Evicted*. Renters can get evicted for calling the police to report domestic violence, or for the things their children do – have an asthma attack, hit a car with a snowball – that draw the attention of local officials or provoke an angry motorist to kick down the front door. The blemish of an eviction on their records sends people into ever worse neighborhoods, the landlords relying on renters' desperation to justify increasingly squalid conditions. Poor families and criminals end up in the same places because both are deemed undesirable, but for vastly different reasons.

"Eviction is not just a condition of poverty; it's a cause of it," Desmond told *The Rotarian*. "We are paying for its fallout. We're paying for higher rates of depression and we are paying for higher crime in neighborhoods with more evictions. We're paying for kids' health issues and the educational fallout. Investing in safe, affordable housing is not only something that has a moral benefit; it has economic benefits too."

Desmond spent more than a year living in poor neighborhoods in Milwaukee to research the book and subsequently conducted additional surveys drawing on his fieldwork with the support of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation (he later received the foundation's "genius grant" in 2015). The resulting book paints such detailed portraits of families going through eviction that it reads like a novel. It was named one of the 10 best books of 2016 by the *Washington Post* and one of the best books of 2016 by *New York Times* book reviewers, among its many accolades.

Desmond, now a professor at Princeton University, is familiar with Rotary and its mission: His father, Nicholas Desmond, was a member of the Rotary Club of Winslow, Ariz., before moving to Massachusetts. The Winslow Rotary Club gave the younger Desmond a scholarship to support his undergraduate work at Arizona State University.

Desmond spoke with senior staff writer Diana Schoberg, who lives in Milwaukee and was a renter herself in the city while he was doing his research. They talked about the high cost of living in run-down housing, the financial burden of the eviction cycle on society, and what we can do about it.

THE ROTARIAN: Your book reads like a novel. How did you gain access to and the trust of the people you profiled?

MATTHEW DESMOND: Living in the neighborhood helped a lot. In the trailer park, Larraine and Scott, Ned and Pam – those were my neighbors. I would spend days hanging out with Lennie in the office, which was right in the middle of the trailer park, and just became a presence. Some folks were very open from the beginning. Some folks were much more reserved and cautious. I took time with them and shared my previous publications so they knew what my work was about. Folks thought I was a cop, or a Child Protective Services worker undercover, or a drug addict. There were a lot of suspicions, all of which were completely understandable and much more normal in these neighborhoods than a social scientist.

TR: Did you get involved in the families' lives or did you have rules for yourself about the boundaries you were going to keep?

DESMOND: I didn't have many rules about that. I was trying to understand their lives as deeply as I could and with as much complexity as I could. That meant that some nights I slept on their couches and their floors, and I watched their kids, and they bought me dinner and I bought them dinner. I wanted to try to bear witness to this problem, and that meant trying to involve myself as little as possible in certain scenarios, but as I talked about the book, there were some times when I helped out and there were a lot of times when they helped me out, like you do with friends.

TR: Did you go into the book wanting to write about evictions, or had you wanted to write about poverty and then evictions became the issue that stood out?

DESMOND: I wanted to write a different kind of poverty book, one that wasn't just about poor folks or poor places, but these relationships. Eviction was the narrative device. I had no idea how common evictions were. I had no idea that one in eight Milwaukee renters were evicted every two years, that eviction has such a big impact on people's lives. Eviction became much more than just a way to write a certain book – it became the thing to really understand in a deeper way.

TR: The difference in rent between some of the squalid apartments you write about and well-kept places in safe neighborhoods was only $100 or $200 a month. Why is that?

DESMOND: Researchers from [University of California] Berkeley have geocoded rentals on Craigslist, and you see this compression of rents in a lot of soft-market cities all around the country. This isn't a uniquely Milwaukee thing – this is something you can see in a city like Cleveland or Baltimore or Pittsburgh or Philadelphia. Why is that? What's going on?

The median asking rent in Milwaukee in 2010 for a two-bedroom apartment was $600. In the middle of the [poorer] north side, rents are about $550. So you have a slight reduction in housing costs, but the neighborhood and housing quality are vastly different.

Most landlords in Milwaukee set rents by looking at Craigslist or the newspaper to see what apartments are going for. If you geocode the addresses of properties advertising in Craigslist and the newspaper, they're not on the north side of Milwaukee. They're usually [in wealthier neighborhoods]. So the rents are skewed upward. That might be something that's happening.

What's interesting is that historically it doesn't seem that weird. Even Jacob Riis talked about it when he wrote *How the Other Half Lives* [in 1890]. The rents in the tenements were actually a bit more expensive than rents uptown. That suggests that it has policy implications. It suggests that maybe the nonprofit sector can get more involved in very poor neighborhoods than they are. And it suggests that the housing crisis isn't just driven by these kinds of bloodless forces, like supply and demand, but is also driven in part at least by a profit motive.

TR: How do you balance the right to profit that a landlord has, versus a need for someone to have safe and affordable housing?

DESMOND: This is a moral discussion that the nation needs to begin to have. When I think about how to address this problem at scale, I always come back to public-private partnerships. I think that's the way out of this crisis that can help the most people. Profits are involved in that, people making a living are involved in that, but the state is also involved in that, and much more housing assistance to families in need is involved with that. That's why the book calls for a mass expansion of housing vouchers, which are these public-private partnerships. In America, we have chosen to house the vast majority of our families of modest means in the private rental market, which means landlords and property owners in that market have to be at the table.

TR: You portrayed the landlords so richly in the book. Tobin lends money to someone to attend a funeral, and Sherrena bought food for Arleen when she moved in. But as Sherrena said, "Love don't pay the bills." What makes the landlords you met tick?

DESMOND: My job was to try to write about everyone with as much complexity as I could. Depending on how we lean politically, we might be more inclined toward the landlords or toward the tenants. And maybe we're inclined to paint one of those groups in a really poor light, but if you look at the problem from the sidewalk level, it's just much more complex than that. You see landlords in the book being generous and being forgiving and sometimes being very hard and sometimes cavalier. They're human. One thing that makes them tick is making a good living. This is where the rubber meets the road on hard questions on affordable housing. The landlords in *Evicted* made a good living, and they rented exclusively to low-income families. How much inequality are we OK with? How big a profit should we tolerate, and are some ways of making a profit more upstanding than others?

One thing we're doing now is trying to understand how landlord profit margins

vary across neighborhood types. We're finding some statistical evidence that profit margins are higher in poorer neighborhoods because the mortgage and the property tax bills are lower, but rents, like we just talked about, aren't that much lower. That raises normative questions for us and public policy questions, too.

TR: How do we change the problem when it is so systemic? What role could an organization like Rotary play?

DESMOND: Only about one in four families who qualify for housing assistance get any. The vast majority of poor folks get nothing. Their kids don't get enough to eat, because the rent eats first. One in four poor families who are renting is spending over 70 percent of its income on housing costs. Even with imperfect policies, we need a vast expansion of housing assistance to those families. One way to get there is building a broad coalition – and involving not the usual suspects. If you care about educational quality and allowing kids to reach their full potential, then you've got to give them a stable home. If you care about reducing health care costs, the top 5 percent of the users consume 50 percent of health care costs in hospitals. And guess who those users are? They're the unstably housed. They're homeless folks.

This lack of affordable housing is going to hit our business leaders hard. They're going to experience more turnover in their workforce. They're going to experience the resistance of folks to move to high-cost cities even if the jobs are better. Folks that are part of Rotary have a vital role to play, not only as business leaders, but as community leaders as well. When low-income neighborhoods are communities – when folks know their neighbors – there are massive returns. They can drive down crime in their neighborhood, become more politically engaged, form that stickiness of neighborhoods that's so important for kids' well-being. Eviction threatens that.

TR: Are there other countries that we can look to for solutions?

DESMOND: We're unique among other advanced industrial societies for the level of poverty that we have and the kind of poverty that we have. If you give a talk on this book in Amsterdam or London or Paris, people are flabbergasted, outraged. They're just not used to the material hardship that we have come to tolerate as a nation.

We can look to countries that have universal housing programs like the Netherlands or Britain. We can look at countries that have installed mandatory mediators between landlords and tenants like France has. Or countries like Germany that make a much more serious investment in public housing than we have. Or countries that don't have these massive homeowner subsidies like we do, but have equal or similar rates of homeownership. Canada is one, the UK is another. But the good news is that we don't have to – the policies we have here work pretty darn well. Our housing voucher program [often referred to as Section 8] is a great program. It lifts over 2 million people above the poverty line every year, and it makes kids healthier. Families move less. They live in better neighborhoods. It works. The problem is that it's just not enough to go around.

TR: What sort of financial burden does the eviction cycle have on society as a whole?

DESMOND: To answer that question, we need to ask, What does eviction do to a family? Families not only leave their homes. Kids lose their schools, you lose your community, you often lose your stuff because it's piled on the sidewalk or taken by movers. Eviction comes with a mark: It pushes families into worse housing, worse neighborhoods. Those are things that can have a lasting and deep impact on kids' well-being. We have a study that shows that moms who get evicted have high rates of depression two years later. We know that suicides attributed to evictions and foreclosures doubled between 2005 and 2010 [years when housing costs soared]. We have a study that shows eviction can cause job loss because it can be such a consuming, stressful event. It can make you make mistakes at work, lose your footing in the job market.

TR: Your book has gotten a lot of attention. Has that translated into any changes?

DESMOND: We're seeing a lot more people talk about this issue than before. This work has helped push forward arguments like the right to counsel in housing court, which New York City passed earlier this year. It is the first city in the country to take a stand to say folks who are facing eviction around the city should have legal representation. I testified at that hearing citing the research on what eviction does to families. Philadelphia is now considering something similar.

We've had movement on the federal level too. One example of that has to do with research that connected evictions to nuisance ordinances and domestic violence. Domestic violence survivors had to choose between calling 911 and risking eviction, or not calling 911 when they were in an abusive relationship. At a meeting on Capitol Hill, Sen. [Elizabeth] Warren really latched on to those ordinances. She organized 28 senators to write a letter to HUD [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development], and HUD very shortly thereafter issued guidance putting federal law back on the side of domestic violence survivors. The ACLU has been involved in that effort as well. It started a campaign called "I Am Not a Nuisance" where it's litigating against these ordinances across the country.

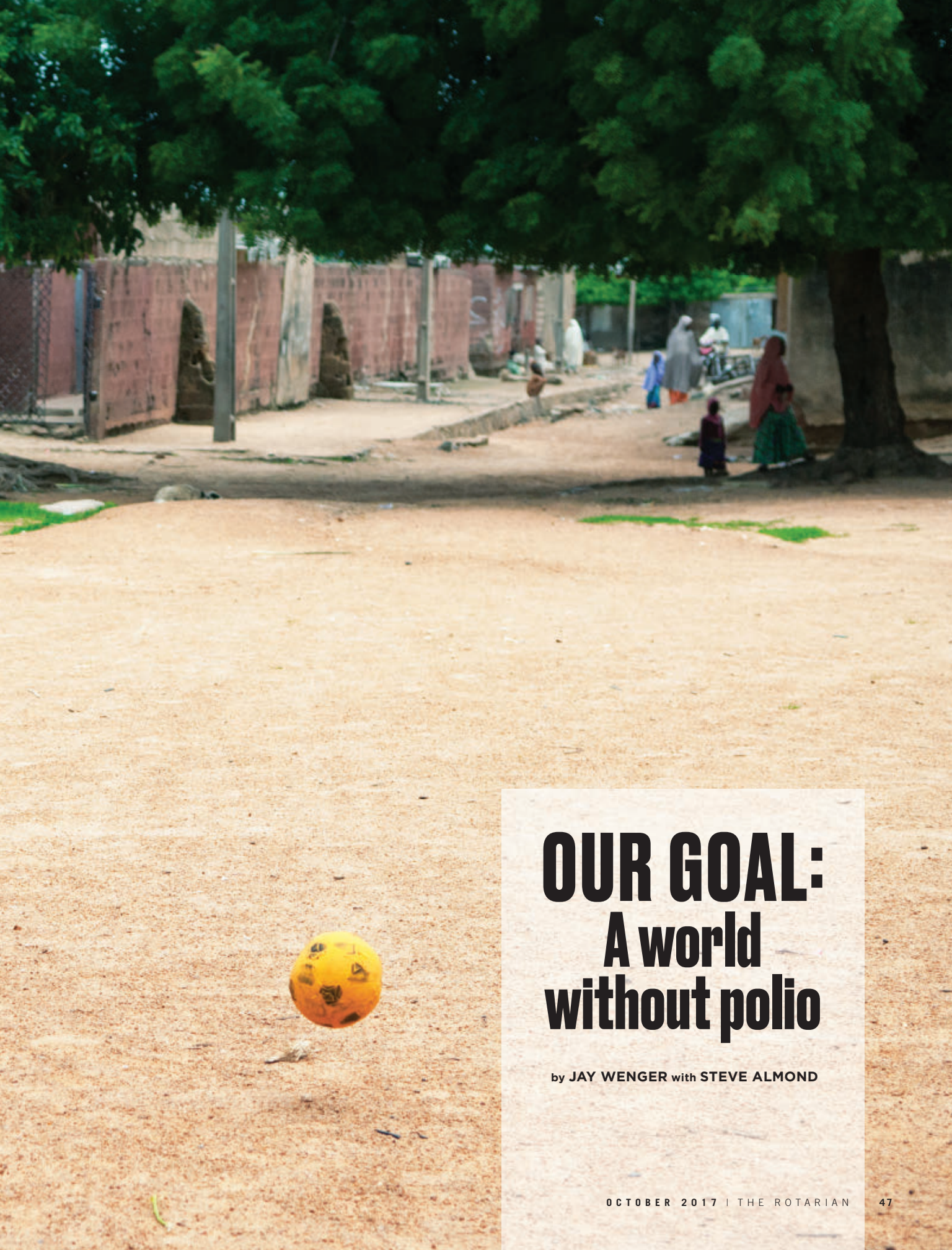
If the book has made a difference, it's because people are responding to the folks in its pages, folks like Arleen and Larraine and Scott. People are recognizing that this level of social suffering and blunting of human capacity is not right, and it's not us. ■

GET INVOLVED

Matthew Desmond founded Just Shelter to enhance the efforts of community organizations working on issues related to affordable housing, eviction, and homelessness. Find out how you can get involved at **justshelter.org.**

Learn how you can develop a Rotary project to decrease poverty at **http://bit.ly/2qZTkEB**, or make a donation at **www.rotary.org/donate.**

TADEJ ZNIDARCIC



OUR GOAL: A world without polio

by JAY WENGER with STEVE ALMOND

At the Rotary International Convention in June, Rotary and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation renewed their long-standing support for ending polio in dramatic fashion: Rotary committed to raising $50 million per year over the next three years, with every dollar to be matched with two additional dollars from the Gates Foundation. This expanded agreement will translate to up to $450 million for polio eradication activities. JAY WENGER, director of the Gates Foundation's polio eradication program, talks about his work as an epidemiologist and about why ending polio for good is so important.

I wanted to become a doctor ever since I was a little kid, but I originally thought I would become a country doctor – a general practitioner.

That notion changed when I had the opportunity to work at a mission hospital for a couple of months during medical school. One thing I saw during that experience was that you could deliver a lot of health care and prevent a huge amount of disease for a relatively small amount of money.

Eventually, I became interested in infectious diseases. I liked the idea of focusing on something specific – that seemed more doable to me than knowing everything about everything, as it seemed a general practitioner needed to do. I went on to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), where I received additional training in infectious disease epidemiology.

Epidemiology involves studying disease in an entire population – figuring out who gets sick, how it spreads, and how it can be prevented. It included working on outbreaks, which is like solving a disease mystery but needing to do it in a hurry.

When I was at the CDC, we studied one outbreak where a dozen or so individuals in the same area wound up with the same skin infection. So I went to the affected area and started trying to figure out what these people had in common. It turned out they had all been patients at one particular clinic – that was one clue. When we looked further into the record, we found they had all had the same specific operation. In the end, we figured out that all the cases traced to a single bottle of fluid under

PARTNERS IN ERADICATING POLIO

A timeline

1979-early 1980s: Rotary undertakes a series of polio immunization campaigns throughout Southeast Asia and Latin America, beginning with one in 1979 in the Philippines and followed by similar activities in Cambodia, Haiti, Morocco, Paraguay, and Sierra Leone.

1985: Rotary introduces PolioPlus – the first effort to immunize every child in the world with polio vaccine – and aims to raise $120 million. During its 1988 convention in Philadelphia, Rotary announces it has raised $247 million, more than double the target amount.

1988: Rotary pushes forward the global resolution to eradicate polio at the 1988 World Health Assembly in Geneva. It also spearheads the launch of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative with the World Health Organization, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and UNICEF.

one sink in that clinic, which had contaminated the equipment they were using.

That's a lot of what epidemiologists do: We track infectious diseases, try to figure out how they spread, and then, hopefully, figure out what to do to stop it.

I worked in a group at the CDC that focused on bacterial meningitis, which is an infection of the brain and spinal cord. A bacteria called Haemophilus influenzae Type B (Hib) was the most common cause, infecting up to 15,000 kids in the U.S. every year. This was when the Hib vaccine had just been developed. I got involved in monitoring how much disease was out there and how the vaccine was working, and it was really striking. We went from thousands upon thousands of cases per year to a couple of dozen as vaccine use spread to all kids across the country.

Seeing the power of a vaccine program was a big part of what led me to get involved with polio eradication.

I was born in 1955, which is the same year, incredibly, that the Salk vaccine for polio was licensed and introduced in the U.S. At that time, polio was the most feared infection in the country.

To understand the significance of the development of the polio vaccine, you have to understand how big the polio scare had been in the 1930s, '40s, and '50s. When summer came around, parents were terrified that their children would get the disease and wind up paralyzed or even dead. When that first vaccine came out in 1955, it was hailed as a medical miracle.

Even after I was born, the specter of polio haunted people. There were campaigns with the newer oral vaccine where drops of the vaccine would be put onto a sugar cube, which you would then eat. I can still remember getting those sugar cubes for polio as a kid.

Polio became a major example of a successful vaccine – driving down case counts from hundreds of thousands per year globally to zero in the U.S. and other wealthy countries. But polio remained a big threat in the developing world.

The poliovirus affects a type of cell in the spinal column, and once these cells are killed, there's no way for the brain to send messages to the muscles. The result is what's called acute flaccid paralysis, or AFP, and that muscle doesn't work anymore – it can't flex or contract. The virus often affects an arm or leg, which tends to shrivel from disuse. If the disease affects the muscles of the chest or diaphragm, polio can be fatal, because the patient can't breathe.

What makes it possible to get rid of the virus is that it can only reproduce in humans and that it can live in humans for only a few weeks to a month or so until the body gets rid of it. During that time, virus is excreted in the stool, but once outside the human body, it can survive for only a week or two. It has to find another person to infect in that time, or it dies off. So if you can break the chain of transmission – stop the virus from spreading from person to person by making enough people immune through the vaccine – you can actually drive the

2002-03: Rotary launches the Polio Eradication Fundraising Campaign with a fundraising target of $80 million. The campaign, netting $135 million, eclipses Rotary's goal. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation contributes $1 million when it honors Rotary with its Gates Award for Global Health, its first gift to Rotary's efforts to end polio.

2007: The Gates Foundation announces its first major grant to polio eradication – a $100 million challenge to Rotary, promising to match funds raised by Rotarians.

> "You have to get rid of the virus everywhere or it can come back, reinfecting places where it was eliminated."

virus into extinction. But you have to get rid of the virus everywhere or it can come back, reinfecting places where it had been eliminated.

This is why the World Health Assembly voted, in 1988, to eradicate polio. Rotary was incredibly important at that time. They took ownership of the mission from the beginning, and they assisted numerous countries in the early stages of this effort.

I could see the impact they were making, and as an epidemiologist I was struck by the possibility that we could eliminate a disease from the face of the earth, if we were determined enough.

In 2002, I had the opportunity to work with WHO in India. I directed the National Polio Surveillance Project. That's where I got firsthand experience with how Rotary works within a country.

A great deal of Rotary's support resides in their fundraising, of course. With an effort like this, you need a consistent source of funding, and Rotary has made it clear that they want to see this through to the end. Their support has been unwavering.

But I think the most striking thing about working with Rotarians has been how they've energized the sense of commitment in each country. In the United States, they worked in every congressional district and in Washington, D.C., to promote the vaccination effort. In a place like India, I learned quickly that the support of the Rotarians is invaluable. For example, we initially faced challenges with political leaders – but regardless of who we were working with, we could always rely on a local Rotarian to connect with politicians and persuade them to support the polio program.

More broadly, Rotarians provided an instant sense of legitimacy and urgency. They were influential members of their communities, and people took notice when they advocated for polio eradication.

Stopping polio in India was a tremendous feat. From dense cities like Mumbai to the most remote villages up in the mountains, we had to make sure every child was vaccinated.

Most of my fieldwork was in the north, because that's where we saw cases. As head of the surveillance program, I would go see children with polio. One time, traveling to a northern state called Uttar Pradesh, I went into a tiny single-room house, where a little girl was sitting on a mat bed with a limp leg.

Her leg had been paralyzed for a couple of months. There were things we could do, like make sure she got physical therapy and splints. But there was no way to cure her paralyzed limb. Her mom was looking at me expectantly, and I could tell what she was thinking: "Here's this big doctor from the West and he'll know what to do. He'll know how to fix my child."

That feeling of helplessness, those moments when you're actually seeing the victims – that's my strongest motivator. They're the driving force for the eradication program, because we can't fix polio once it happens. But we can fix it before it happens.

> "The most striking thing about working with Rotarians has been how they've energized the sense of commitment in each country."

2009: Bill Gates pledges an additional $255 million at Rotary's International Assembly, and Rotary increases its fundraising goal to $200 million.

2011: Bill Gates speaks at the Rotary International Convention in New Orleans.

In 2011, I took my position at the Gates Foundation. By that time, Rotary and the Gates Foundation were already huge partners, and Rotary had played a major role in getting the foundation involved in the polio eradication program several years previously.

About the same time, the last case of polio in India occurred, which energized the community to believe global eradication was really within reach. Rotary and the Gates Foundation responded by committing to a multiyear strategic plan for ending polio for good, alongside the other partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (WHO, CDC, UNICEF).

In June 2013, Rotary announced that it would contribute $35 million per year to the effort for a five-year period, which the Gates Foundation would match 2-to-1. In June 2017, Rotary announced that it would increase that contribution to $50 million per year for the next three years, which the Gates Foundation again committed to match 2-to-1.

What people need to realize is that with polio eradication, in contrast to many other public health programs, we can't choose where to go. We have to go where the disease is.

As of now, there are only three countries in the world where wild poliovirus may still circulate: Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Nigeria. Those are incredibly challenging countries to work in, because they have much bigger issues to contend with than polio.

We can't forget about those places or deal with them later, because this would mean that we lose against polio – if the virus remains anywhere, it can spread back to those places we have already cleared out. We have to extend our efforts to the hardest places in the world, and to the least-reached kids in the world.

The question I get most often is when we'll be able to declare that polio is actually gone from the earth. I tell them that we're pushing hard and nearly there.

Last year at the end of July, there were 19 reported cases of polio worldwide. This year, there were only eight. However, the only way we can know that polio is really eradicated is if we record at least three years with no new cases, and I'm optimistic that we will meet this goal soon.

In my work as an epidemiologist, I've seen that it is possible to stop a disease as we did with smallpox. We didn't just drive smallpox down to a small number of cases; we drove it down to nothing.

If I were a more romantic type, I might allow myself to dream about the future of a polio-free world more often. But I'm a worker bee, and I like to keep my head down and focused on what work needs to be done to achieve that goal.

What I try to think about – what Rotary and the Gates Foundation keep me focused on – is the human side of all this. I can still remember from my childhood how scared people were of polio. And I've seen firsthand in my fieldwork what polio does to its victims and their families.

That's what keeps me working. ■

2012: Rotary raises $228.7 million, surpassing the original goal of $200 million. In the same year, Jeff Raikes, then-CEO of the Gates Foundation, announces an additional $50 million contribution to polio eradication efforts at Rotary's International Assembly.

2013: An announcement at the Rotary International Convention in Lisbon sets the stage for a new extension of the partnership between Rotary and the Gates Foundation. The Gates Foundation agrees to match 2-to-1 every dollar committed by Rotary, up to $35 million per year, through 2018. Throughout the campaign, Rotary exceeds its annual fundraising goal.

2017: On the heels of the success of the 2-to-1 matching grant, Rotary and the Gates Foundation announce an increased combined pledge of up to $450 million at the Rotary International Convention in Atlanta. Rotary's new goal is to contribute $50 million per year over three years. With a 2-to-1 match, the Gates Foundation's contribution will increase to $300 million if Rotary reaches its fundraising target.

MILLIONS HAVE BEEN COMMITTED TO ENDING POLIO.

BUT OUR WORK IS JUST BEGINNING.

We are on the brink of eradicating polio. As of the end of July, only eight cases were reported this year, the lowest number in history. Every time a new case is identified, it could be the last one the world ever sees.

Now, we're even closer. At the Rotary International Convention in June, nations from around the world and key donors pledged $1.2 billion to energize the fight against the disease. And in August, the United Kingdom added its own $130 million pledge. To reduce polio cases worldwide to zero, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative has projected a funding gap of $1.5 billion, a figure that will drastically shrink once these commitments are fulfilled. The new funding will go toward polio eradication efforts such as disease surveillance, responses to any outbreaks, and the vaccination of more than 400 million children annually.

While donors have pledged the money to shrink the funding gap, Rotary's work continues. As its part of the pledge, Rotary has committed to raising $50 million per year over the next three years, an amount the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has committed to matching 2-to-1. We need to raise money to ensure that we take advantage of the full Gates match and pressure governments to come through on their commitments.

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation: $450 million • Pakistan: $154.7 million Rotary International: $150 million Nigeria: $134.6 million • United Kingdom: $130 million • Canada: $75 million • European Commission: $61.4 million • Japan: $55 million United Arab Emirates: $30 million • Dalio Foundation: $30 million • Bloomberg Philanthropies: $25 million Anonymous donor: $15 million • Australia: $13.4 million Germany: $11.2 million • easyJet: $5 million • Italy: $5 million Korea: $4 million • Korea Foundation for International Healthcare/Community Chest of Korea: $2 million • United Nations Foundation/Shot@Life: $1.7 million • Switzerland: $1.03 million UNICEF USA: $514,000 • Luxembourg: $500,000 • Monaco: $330,000 New Era Educational and Charitable Foundation: $130,000 • Turkey: $60,000 Malta: $30,000 • Spain: $20,000 • Accenture Interactive USA: $20,000

Sam F. Owori:

A TRIBUTE BY

John Smarge

Rotary Club of Naples, Fla.

Aide to Sam F. Owori
Past director, Rotary International

Sam Owori and I served together on the Rotary International Board of Directors from 2010 to 2012. Sam was not one to offer his opinion on every topic; instead, he reserved his comments for those issues about which he felt most strongly. Those matters usually centered on audit, governance, or Rotary in Africa. Though Sam spoke softly, his words were always deliberate, concise, and highly regarded by his fellow Board members.

Over the eight months that I was Sam's aide, my wife, Cindy, and I spent more time with him and his wife, Norah, than with our own family members. Because of this, I'm still finding it difficult to refer to Sam in the past tense.

I have no doubt that he is loved by Rotarians around the world. Sam's vision, his care and compassion for others, and his humility and thoughtfulness will live on in all of us. When we bring in a new member, Sam's legacy will continue. With each service project, we will pay tribute to a man whose professional, personal, and religious life experiences uniquely positioned him to serve others.

Sam understood the value of membership in a Rotary club and embraced our mottoes of One Profits Most Who Serves Best and Service Above Self.

He joined the Rotary Club of Kampala, Uganda, in 1978. This was shortly before Uganda emerged from dictatorship, an event that eased travel restrictions and allowed Sam to attend his first district conference in Nairobi. The conference, and the diversity of thought and dialogue among the participants, made a *(continued on p. 56)*

Sam F. and Norah Owori

A man of quiet confidence

A TRIBUTE BY

Olayinka Hakeem Babalola

Rotary Club of Trans Amadi, Port Harcourt, Nigeria

Director-elect, Rotary International

My first close encounter with Sam Owori occurred in 2010 during the governors-elect training seminar in Munyonyo, a suburb of Kampala, Uganda. Sam had given well-received opening remarks in which he outlined his vision for Rotary's growth in Africa. During the coffee break after his speech, he pulled me aside and asked, "Yinka, do you make sense out of my presentation?" I answered in the affirmative. The next evening, he asked whether I had yet thought about how his growth vision could be realized in my country, Nigeria. I wondered then why this "big man" of Rotary considered the opinion of a governor trainee to be important.

It only took a few more encounters until I had become infected with what was then characterized as the "Owori madness" but which I now embrace as the Owori Challenge to grow Rotary in Africa. Sam wanted to bolster our numbers so we could do more.

Sam was a leader whose external calmness and ease belied his piercing vision and determination. He was a coach and mentor in a way I have come to describe as untraditional. I once broached the idea to him of honoring Arch Klumph Society inductees from our continent during a special African Day at The Rotary Foundation. He asked me, in a way I found exasperating at the time, to "go and give it a try" and walked away. I concluded that he either did not understand my proposal or thought it would not work. But I was greatly mistaken. A few months later, I received a surprising call asking me to work on a Nigeria Day. Sam thought we could do better than going for six or seven donors from *(continued on p. 57)*

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Below: *Owori (second from left) at the opening reception for the polio exhibit at RI World Headquarters.* ***Right:*** *Sharing his Rotary moment at the 2013 International Assembly.*

A TRIBUTE BY John Smarge / *continued*

lasting impression on him. He realized that even though there was tension between governments, among fellow Rotarians there was love, compassion, and a common vision for a better Africa.

In 1983, the year Sam served as president of the Rotary Club of Kampala, he attended the Africa Conference of Goodwill. He heard great speakers, among them Mother Teresa. However, his favorite memory was meeting then-Rotary President Hiroji Mukasa from Japan. He viewed the presidency of Rotary International as an unbelievable honor and the ultimate opportunity to make a positive impact on his community, country, continent, and the world.

In the brief time that Sam served as Rotary's president-elect – a mere two weeks – you could see the love that Rotarians had for him. At the convention in Atlanta, when Sam took the stage to formally accept the nomination, the crowd erupted. It was not merely applause, but almost screams of joy. As we walked the halls of the convention, people would see Sam and shout to him. They wouldn't just say, "There's Sam." They would say, "There's *our* Sam."

To the people of Uganda, he is a national treasure. To the Rotarians of Africa, he represents validation of the importance of Rotary in Africa, and of Africa in Rotary. Sam was only the second Rotarian from Africa to be elected to the presidency of Rotary International, and he did not reach those heights alone. He brought the 30,000 dedicated and passionate Rotarians of Africa – and the 1.2 million members throughout the world. ■

Help honor Sam Owori's legacy

Sam F. Owori was elected to serve as president of Rotary International in 2018-19 and would have been the second African Rotarian, and the first Ugandan, to hold that office. He died on 13 July, at age 76, from complications after surgery.

Owori is largely credited with the tremendous increase in clubs in Uganda, from nine in 1988, when he was district governor, to 89 today.

Owori was a district governor during the term of Rotary President Chuck Keller in 1987-88, when the Global Polio Eradication Initiative and the first fundraising campaign was launched. A member of the Africa Regional PolioPlus Committee and the International PolioPlus Committee, he brought an unyielding sense of right and wrong to his work with Rotary, as well as to his position as CEO of the Institute of Corporate Governance of Uganda and his previous work with

Clockwise from left: *Owori speaks at the closing ceremony of the 2017 convention in Atlanta; mourners pay their respects at a state funeral in Kampala, Uganda; Owori (second from right) meets with Isaac Adewole (third from right), Nigeria's minister of health, to discuss polio eradication efforts.*

A TRIBUTE BY Olayinka Hakeem Babalola / *continued*

the whole continent. Others get that many donors from just one country, and so could we. It hadn't been lack of interest; it was just his way of getting me to take action to fit his vision.

Before Sam became a trustee of The Rotary Foundation, the general perception was that Africa was poor and so we shouldn't expect Foundation contributions from the continent. But Sam told people that while it is true the continent is poor, Rotarians on the continent are not. They can give their share.

We owe Sam a debt. He led us, trained us, and guided us. Sam envisioned an RI Board that would always include African representation, and he grew the continent's membership to the point that for the first time our continent will be a Rotary zone of its own. We must work and deliver on our promises to him. We must meet the Sam Owori Challenge to grow Rotary in Africa. That is a debt I intend to pay, along with all Rotarians in Africa.

We've had only one African president in Rotary's history. So to have the second one was going to be a big deal. We all looked forward to it. I was going to be on the Board and have the privilege to serve with him. I was looking forward to the things we could do together for the good of Rotary and of our continent.

Someone told me that Sam left very big shoes to fill. I said we are not afraid of big shoes – coming from our part of the world, you know what to do to get big shoes to fit. The problem is if the shoe is too small. That is when you suffer.

Sam loved to smile with his face, his eyes, and his soul. May the smile never depart from his gentle soul as he rests in eternal peace. ■

1941-2017

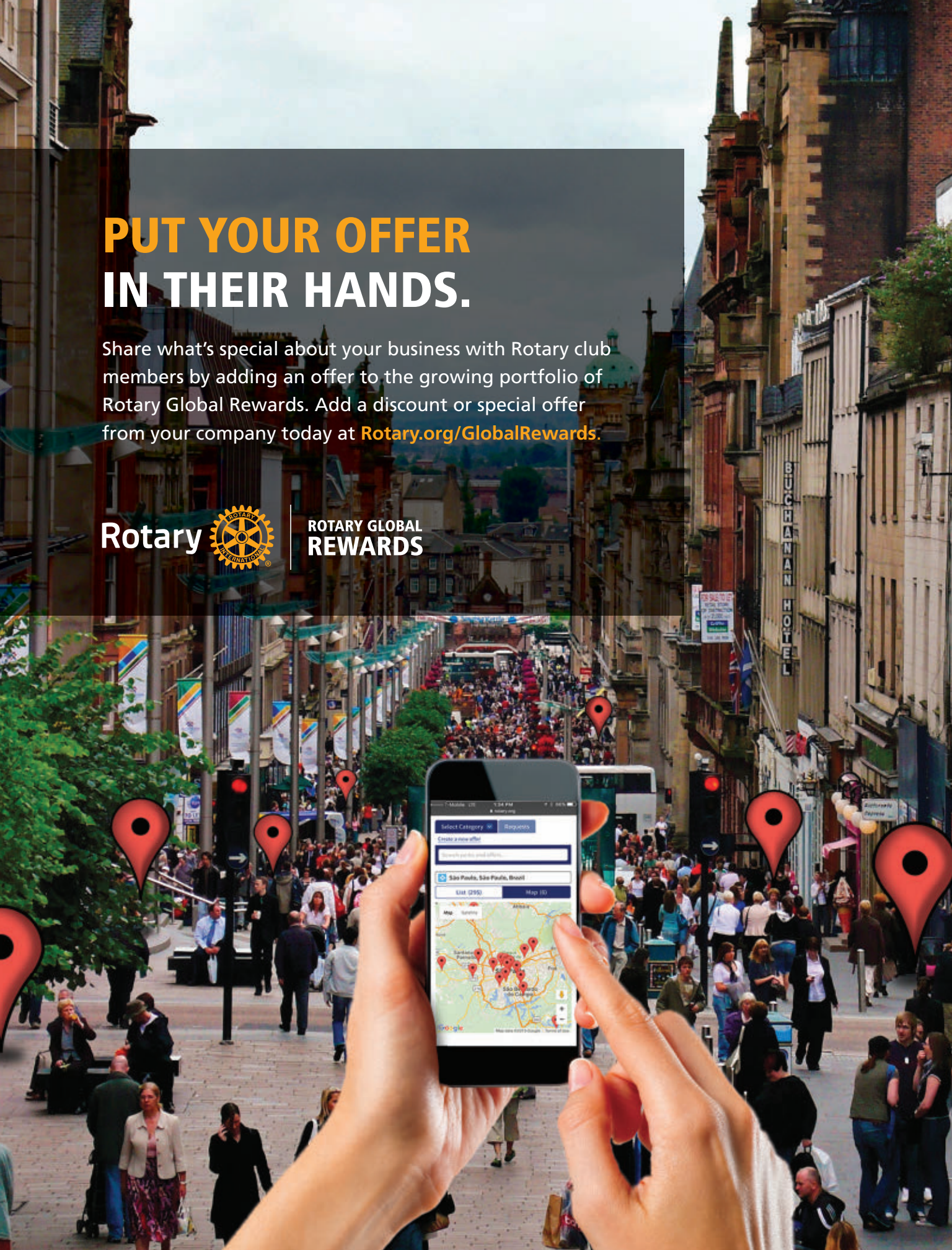
the African Development Bank and other institutions.

He held a graduate degree in labor law from the University of Leicester, England; a business management degree from California Coast University; and a management graduate degree from Harvard Business School.

Owori is survived by his wife, Norah; three sons, Adrin Stephen, Bonny Patrick, and Daniel Timothy; and grandchildren Kaitlyn, Sam, and Adam. Condolences can be addressed to **Mrs. Norah Agnes Owori, c/o Institute of Corporate Governance of Uganda, Crusader House, Plot 3 Portal Avenue, Kampala, Uganda,** or via **sam.owori@rotary.org.**

The Sam F. Owori Memorial to Polio has been established to honor Owori's commitment to Rotary's polio eradication efforts. Visit rotary.org/donate and click on the "donate" button to select and contribute to this memorial fund.

FUNERAL IMAGE BY BAGALANA IBRAHIM/BRUG PHOTOGRAPHY; ALL OTHERS ROTARY INTERNATIONAL



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insider

ROTARACT CLUB OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA, SRI LANKA

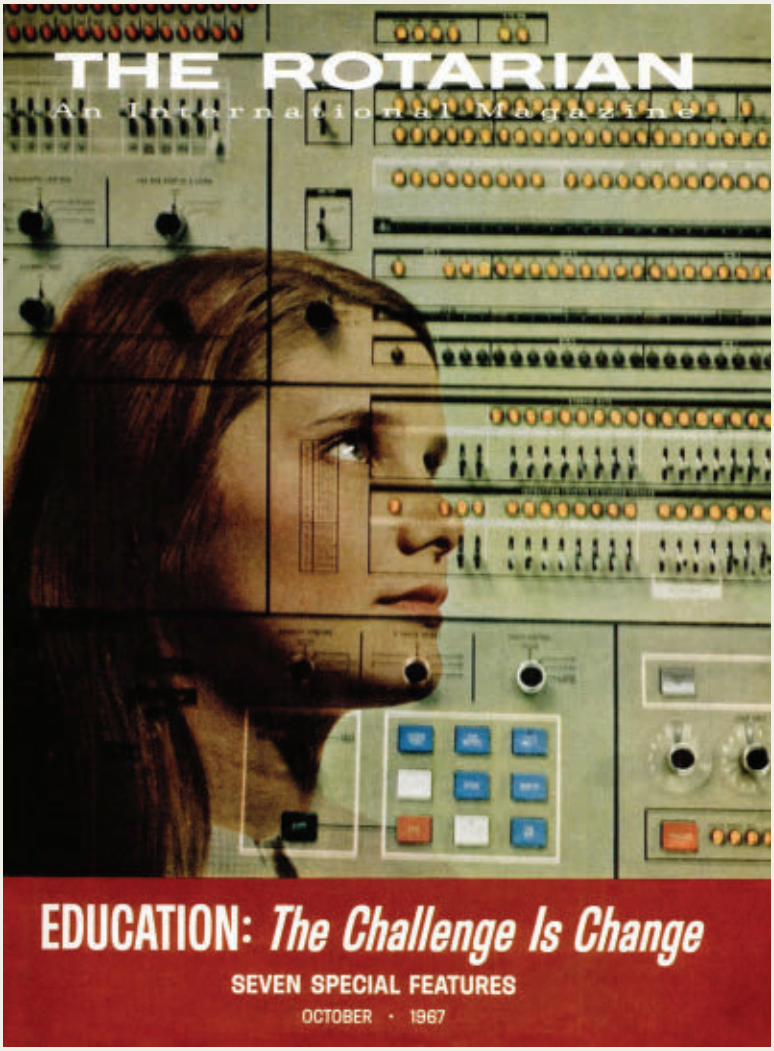
Sustainable projects earn top Rotaract honors

The Rotaract Club of the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka, won the 2017 Rotaract Outstanding Project Award for launching a three-year project to improve lives in the rural community of Ranugalla. The club, which represents Rotary District 3220 (Sri Lanka), hopes to empower residents through sustainable education and economic development initiatives.

During its first year, the club opened a library and science lab for the local school and helped students prepare for college entrance exams and careers. It also targeted infrastructure, bringing clean water into homes and building bridges to link neighborhoods flooded during the rainy season. To stimulate economic growth, the club opened a weaving cooperative for female entrepreneurs.

"Rather than initiating a project to donate materials, we thought a project to address all the issues in the village would be much more beneficial to all," says Chamal Kuruppu, 2016-17 president of the University of Moratuwa Rotaract Club.

Best multidistrict project went to Rotaractors in Brazil for their campaign to combat hate crimes in online communities. More than 1,000 Rotaract members from 34 Brazilian districts planned activities during World Rotaract Week in 2016, adapting the campaign to their communities – such as partnering with a university to design a workshop series on internet hate crimes – and using their social networks to spread mes-



FROM THE ARCHIVES OF *THE ROTARIAN*

October 1967

In the late 1960s, computers were just beginning to enter schools, and there was much debate about their role in education. In "Confrontation in the Classroom: Technology vs. the Teacher," writer Ira Glasser concedes the usefulness of machines on mechanical tasks such as flashcards and drills, but emphasizes the need for a teacher as a guide. "What can a child learn from a teacher that he could not learn from a machine? He can learn humanity. For the teacher is not just a transmitter of knowledge. That indeed can be left to the machines. The teacher is an educator, above all, a *human* educator." The cover image superimposes the daughter of photographer Bob Amft over a transparency of an IBM 360 computer, which had been on the market only three years at the time of publication.

ROTARY AT A GLANCE

As of 31 May

ROTARY	ROTARACT	INTERACT	RCCS
Members:	Members:	Members:	Members:
1,236,554	**235,497**	**499,123**	**210,500**
Clubs:	Clubs:	Clubs:	Corps:
35,533	**10,239**	**21,701**	**9,452**

Rotaractors from Sri Lanka (previous page) and Canada were honored for their projects.

ROTARACT CLUB OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE

sages of diversity, inclusion, and peace.

This year, over 300 projects were nominated in 52 countries. The awards recognize the best single-club project, best multidistrict project, and outstanding service projects in each of six geographical regions. The best single-club project and best multidistrict project receive $500 each for future service activities.

These clubs received regional recognition:

Asia Pacific: Rotaract Club of ePerformax, District 3810, Philippines

The Rotaract Club of ePerformax, in collaboration with its sponsor Rotary club, the Rotary Club of Pasay Cyber City, and local police, developed a curriculum to support young people's emotional and physical well-being. Club members trained young people to recognize bullying and defuse situations that could become dangerous, and created a school garden to keep them active, healthy, and self-sufficient.

South Asia: Rotaract Club of Lote, District 3170, India

For years, the rural community of Gavathan, India, has had a river winding through it, but no clean water or electricity. The Rotaract Club of Lote sought to harness the river's power to improve lives. Its project resulted in the construction of a small dam, pipes for irrigating crops, and a turbine-operated plant that is powering 61 streetlights.

Europe, Middle East, and Central Asia: Rotaract Club of Izmir Ekonomi, District 2440, Turkey

The ongoing conflict and refugee crisis in Syria has affected nearly everyone in

neighboring Turkey, including its schoolchildren. To help Syrian and Turkish students overcome their differences and focus on their shared human rights, the Rotaract Club of Izmir Ekonomi hosted workshops in two primary schools. After the workshops, which were organized with help from the Council of Europe, the European Law Students' Association, the United Nations, and child psychologists, the young students were asked to express their feelings through painting. "We saw in the paintings that their thoughts changed in a positive way," said a member of the Rotaract club.

Sub-Saharan Africa: Rotaract Club of Cotonou Phare, District 9102, Benin

The Rotaract Club of Cotonou Phare undertook a multiphase project to bring clean water and improved sanitation facilities to a local orphanage. The first phase involved drilling a well for the facility's kitchen and bathrooms. In the second, club members worked with their sponsor Rotary club and other service organizations to refurbish the toilets.

Latin America: Rotaract Club of Pau dos Ferros, District 4500, Brazil

More than 25 organizations and businesses supported the Rotaract Club of Pau dos Ferros in its efforts to boost the rural community of Várzea Nova. Over 13 months, the club helped establish internet connectivity in the town, provided medical exams and services, led childhood education sessions for infants and parents, organized vocational training for adults, and hosted a cultural festival.

United States, Canada, and Caribbean: Rotaract Club of the University of Lethbridge, District 5360, Canada

Rotaractors from the University of Lethbridge in Alberta raised CA$36,500 to update kindergarten facilities in the community of Mazatlán, Mexico. By collaborating with the local government and Rotary clubs, Rotaractors ensured that the funds were used for teachers' salaries and for buying new plumbing and classroom spaces for about 70 students. – SALLYANN PRICE

MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDATION CHAIR

Expanding Rotarians' role as peacebuilders

What do we mean when we talk about peace?

In 1921, the fourth object of Rotary was established: "The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service."

In Rotary today, we see peace not as an abstract concept but as a living, dynamic expression of human development, integral to our humanitarian mission.

Much of our work for peacebuilding depends on the ability of Rotary members to execute three important activities: forming transformative partnerships, raising funds to support our many hundreds of projects, and recruiting and supporting Rotary Peace Fellows in their work.

This year The Rotary Foundation formed a strategic partnership with the Institute for Economics and Peace, one of the leading organizations in identifying and measuring the attitudes, institutions, and structures that create and sustain peaceful societies.

Through this partnership, Rotary will work with the institute to create an online learning portal for Rotarians and peace fellows to build on their current expertise, apply new methods, and mobilize communities to address the issues underlying conflicts. Our goal is to foster community-based projects in peace and conflict resolution that are practical and impactful.

Rotary has also launched a Rotary Peace Centers Major Gifts Initiative to raise funds for new partnerships while continuing to garner contributions to educate and support our peace fellows and more.

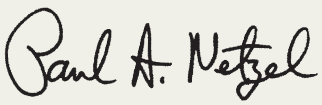
President Ian H.S. Riseley's six peacebuilding conferences – taking place globally from February to June – will explore the relationship among peace, Rotary's areas of focus, and environmental sustainability. Our history proves that you don't need to be a diplomat to make peace.

When you mentor a student struggling to graduate, you are a peacebuilder.

When you launch any project to support economic development in your community, you are building conditions for sustainable peace and conflict management.

When you support and collaborate with a Rotary Peace Fellow, you are advancing peace.

Today's complex conflicts require more creative community-based initiatives. Together we can really make a difference.

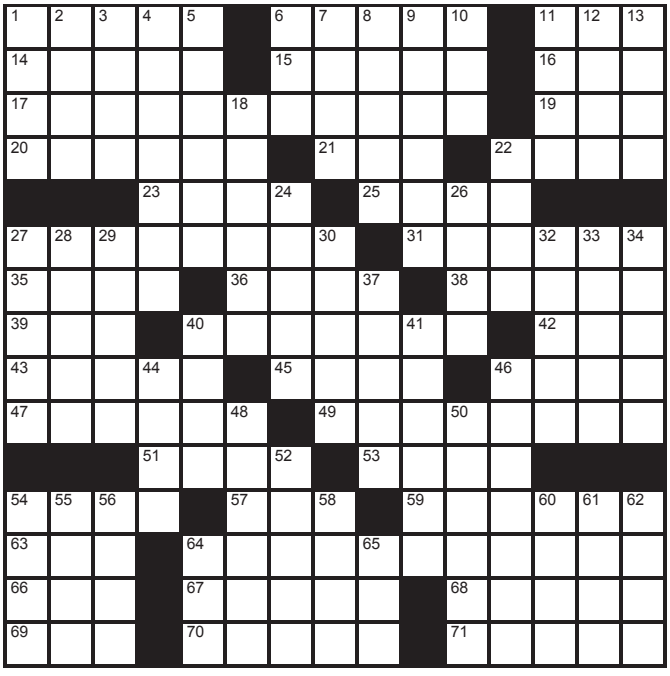


Paul A. Netzel
FOUNDATION TRUSTEE CHAIR

How do you define peace? Send me your thoughts at Paul.Netzel@rotary.org.

TAKING COLLECTIVE ACTION

BY VICTOR FLEMING, ROTARY CLUB OF LITTLE ROCK, ARK., USA



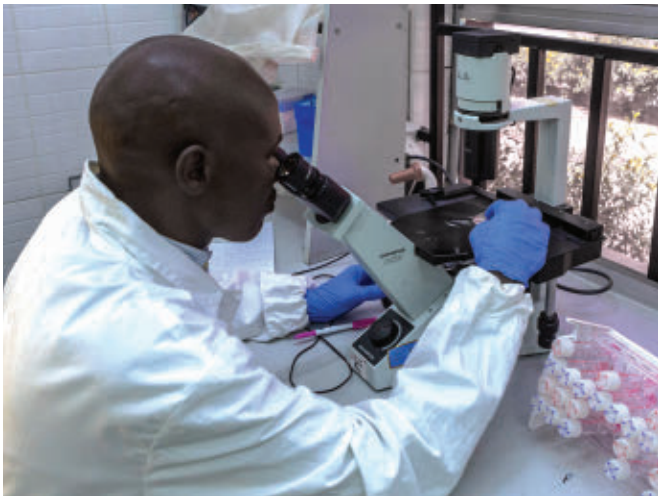
Across

1 Writer Wharton
6 Fall bloomer
11 Cleopatra's snake
14 Boat at a camp
15 Accra's land
16 Lovebird's sound
17 Accomplish a 40-Across, say, by enlisting the help of many
19 ___ and hers
20 Cause to see red
21 And
22 Wallop
23 Tear
25 Relative chart
27 Miscellany
31 Heavenly
35 Bloom with droopy sepals
36 Waffles no more
38 Bucky Beaver's brand
39 Line on a bill
40 Unit of focus in 64-Across
42 Hoover ___
43 1973 Oscar winner Tatum
45 Busy activity
46 Silents actress Lee
47 Turndown to a spouse
49 Meteorologist's directional adjective
51 Burden of proof
53 Food pkg. contents measure
54 Deer in a petting zoo
57 Like a greenhorn
59 "As the final point ..."
63 Rapid-fire rifle
64 Online tool via which a group may 13-, 26-, 40-, and 54-Down a 40-Across
66 Resident of St. Mary's
67 Unconventional
68 Issue of a sibling
69 Doctor of rap
70 Sporty car roofs
71 Jewish observance

Down

1 "___ homo!"
2 Mild oath
3 "___ out?" (pet's choice)
4 In that direction
5 Shilly-shallier
6 In times past
7 Close, as a window
8 Mystic deck
9 Cry from the crowd
10 Sitcom actress Charlotte
11 Pine (for)
12 Potting ___
13 Publicize
18 Prom attendee, typically
22 Half of the Road Runner's taunt
24 End of the line
26 Blue pencil
27 Squash, perhaps
28 Heavenly, in combos
29 Forbade
30 Missouri city, informally
32 Bottommost point
33 Taken together
34 Soap brand
37 Four-door auto
40 Prepare for action
41 Expensive
44 Ages and ages
46 Stops making, as a point
48 Lapse, as a subscription
50 Mark and Shania
52 Melee
54 Bankroll
55 Cote d'___
56 Dine's companion
58 Kind of speed, in *Star Trek*
60 ___ off (furious)
61 Netlike fabric
62 River through Flanders
64 Decay
65 Hi-___ monitor

Solution on page 18



Understanding the recent outbreaks of polio

Outbreaks of vaccine-derived polio were reported over the summer in Syria and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Vaccine-derived cases are rare, and they differ from wild cases. Both occur only when vaccination coverage is low. Here's what you need to know to understand these outbreaks.

Q: What are the two kinds of polio cases?

A: Wild cases of polio are caused by poliovirus that is circulating naturally in the environment.

Vaccine-derived polioviruses are extremely rare and exist under specific circumstances. Oral polio vaccine contains live virus that is weakened so that it will prompt the body's immune response without causing paralysis. The vaccine is ingested, and the weakened virus replicates in the child's gut and is then excreted. In areas with poor sanitation, this excreted vaccine virus can spread to other children. This can actually be good because it then immunizes them. When the strain no longer finds susceptible children, it dies out.

The problem occurs in areas of low vaccination coverage. There, such vaccine-derived strains of the virus can continue to circulate as long as they continue to find unvaccinated or otherwise susceptible children. While they continue to circulate, they mutate. Eventually, if they are allowed to circulate long enough – at least 12 months – they can mutate into strains that are strong enough to cause paralysis.

Q: Is the vaccine safe?

A: Yes. The oral polio vaccine has reduced the number of polio cases by 99.9 percent since 1988. The risk posed by wild poliovirus is far greater than the risk of an outbreak caused by circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus. Once wild polioviruses have been eradicated, use of oral vaccine will be stopped.

Q: Are vaccine-derived cases common?

A: Polio cases caused by circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus are extremely rare. Wild poliovirus remains the far greater risk. Nevertheless, because of the small risk of vaccine-derived outbreaks, use of oral vaccine will be stopped when wild polioviruses have been eradicated.

Q: Are wild cases common?

A: Wild poliovirus occurs only in the countries where polio remains endemic: Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Pakistan. Only eight cases of polio caused by the wild virus have been reported in 2017 as of July. That's the lowest number of polio cases in history, with fewer cases reported in fewer areas of fewer countries than ever.

Q: How are polio cases detected?

A: Polio surveillance has two parts: Doctors and health workers monitor children for the virus, and authorities test sewage samples from sewer systems or elsewhere, in areas that don't have adequate sanitation facilities.

The detection of these most recent cases demonstrates that polio surveillance systems are functioning in Congo and Syria.

Q: What is the science behind the vaccines?

A: There are two types of vaccine: oral and inactivated-virus. The original oral vaccine protected against types 1, 2, and 3 of the virus.

Type 2 wild poliovirus was eradicated in 1999, so the current vaccine contains only types 1 and 3. This allows it to provide quicker and better protection against the two remaining types. The inactivated-virus vaccine, administered by injection, contains virus that is dead. Because the virus is dead, the vaccine cannot cause polio outbreaks.

– RYAN HYLAND and TERESA SCHMEDDING

ANDREW ESIEBO

Global grants available for low-cost shelters and simple schools

Clubs and districts can now use global grants to build low-cost shelters and simple schools, under a recent policy change effective through 2019. The construction must be part of a comprehensive project related to an area of focus. (Projects that involve construction alone are still not eligible for global grants.)

Please note that these structures are limited. Low-cost shelters are intended to provide housing for the poor or homeless. Simple schools provide modest buildings in areas without nearby schools or where current ones are overcrowded. Simple schools can also replace schools that are structurally unsafe. As part of this program, clubs and districts can use global grants to build additional classrooms on school property as long as they are not attached to current structures. To get started, see the low-cost shelters and simple schools guidelines and application appendixes at bit.ly/2w0iIvR and bit.ly/2vJnP4m.

last look

PLAN

How will your club celebrate World Polio Day? Will you sponsor a run, have a booth at a farmers market, or hold a music festival? Rotary has an event planning guide with ideas to get you started. Tell us what you're doing by registering your event and find the guide, sample press releases, social media graphics, and more at **endpolio.org/worldpolioday.**

WATCH

Tune in for Rotary's fifth annual World Polio Day event on 24 October, this year co-hosted with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Watch it live at 5:30 p.m. EDT or anytime after the event at **endpolio.org.**

DONATE

In this issue, you read about Rotary's new commitment to raise $150 million over the next three years to end polio, a figure that will be matched 2-to-1 by the Gates Foundation. Make your contribution in our countdown to history at **www.rotary.org/donate.**

Start making plans for your club's World Polio Day celebration.

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