



THE SIREN MONTHLY Bulletin

ISSUE VI
DEC
2023



Merry Christmas
& A happy New year



Disease Prevention and Treatment

More than 100 million people are pushed into poverty each year because of medical costs. We aim to improve and expand access to low-cost and free health care in underdeveloped areas. Our members educate and mobilize communities to help prevent the spread of major diseases such as polio, HIV/AIDS, and malaria. Many of our projects ensure that medical training facilities are located where the workforce lives.



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District Governor

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EDITOR'S NOTE



Celebrating Service, Culture, and Unity

Dear Valued Readers,

Welcome to the Sixth Edition of the Siren Newsletter! This issue marks yet another milestone in our ongoing journey to make a meaningful difference in the world as we explore the Rotary theme for December, "Disease Prevention and Treatment."

Last month was a whirlwind of inspiring moments, from the esteemed visit of our District Governor Francisco Ssemwanga to the joyous welcoming of eight new members, each brimming with a unique passion for service. These moments were not merely occasions of celebration; they were testaments to the growth and diversity that empower Rotary to create positive change.

Amidst the flurry of activities, the TRF Extravaganza unfolded, bringing together the top District 9214 leadership. This incredible event was a symphony of cultures, philanthropy, and friendship. The air crackled with an electrifying energy of collaboration and a shared commitment to making the world a better place. Among the event's highlights

was PDG Emmanuel Katongole's generous donation of 20 million towards the joint Kitale Secondary School project, a beacon of our Rotary family's boundless generosity.

This edition captures the essence of these unforgettable moments of service, cultural richness, and the indomitable spirit of Rotary. Every page echoes the vibrancy and unity that define our family.

As we stand on the threshold of future challenges and triumphs, let the stories within ignite a spark of inspiration. Let them fuel your journey of service, guide you through kindness, and reaffirm your commitment to the community. Together, let us turn the page and write the next chapters of our Rotary story, leaving a lasting impact on our community and the world.

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Unnatural disasters

Gordon R. McNally

RI President 2023 - 2024



Rotary partner ShelterBox is an international disaster relief charity that has helped more than 2.5 million displaced people in approximately 100 countries with emergency shelter, essential household items, and technical support."



In December, I will attend the United Nations COP28 climate change summit in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. There, I will speak about the convergence of two global crises: climate and mental health. As the World Health Organization has noted, climate change worsens risk factors — such as disruptions to homes and livelihoods — for mental health problems. The emotional distress of a disaster also makes it difficult for people to recover and rebuild.

Rotary partner ShelterBox is an international disaster relief charity that has helped more than 2.5 million displaced people in approximately 100 countries with emergency shelter, essential household items, and technical support. I wish to share this month's column with their CEO, Sanj Srikanthan, who explains that the words we choose to describe disasters matter.

The term "natural" disaster has long been used to describe tropical storms, floods, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions, but there needs to be an urgent shift in the language we use. While the term may seem harmless, and we've not always gotten it right, we've learned through our work with disaster-affected communities how it perpetuates a dangerous myth that nothing could have been done to prevent people being so badly affected. This misleading and harmful narrative can lead to a lack of action to help people who need it.

The language we use matters. When we frame disasters as natural, we fail to acknowledge the complex interplay between nature and the role of human actions and how they impact communities around the world.

Earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, and extreme storms, drought, and flooding occur because of natural processes on Earth. But it is how these events affect people or the environment that has the potential to make them a disaster — outcomes influenced by human factors like where people live, what types of homes they have, political instability, and the lack of proactive measures to protect vulnerable communities. A disaster is the result of systemic inequalities in access to resources and power. Where we live and how much money we have often determines our ability to recover. The people worst affected are those living in poverty, with the least means to protect themselves and few resources to withstand the next event.

By framing these events as natural, we undermine the need for proactive measures to protect vulnerable communities, masking the underlying social, economic, and political instability that makes marginalized and disadvantaged communities disproportionately affected. Our teams see



SANJ SRIKANTHAN - CEO, ShelterBox

firsthand how issues like inequality, poverty, urbanization, deforestation, and the climate crisis can make communities more vulnerable.

At ShelterBox, we simply say "disaster" or are more specific, describing the extreme weather, earthquake, tsunami, or volcanic eruption. I urge everyone to help us in breaking this cycle by committing to language that accurately reflects why people are affected so badly. Only then does it pave the way to address the underlying causes of vulnerability and work toward a more just and equitable future for all, with the necessary investment, resources, and proactive measures to help protect affected communities.

Disasters are not natural. Let's stop saying they are.

December Focus:

Finalizing Rotary Dues and Locking in Attendance for the 99th District Conference"

Francisco Ssemwanga

District Governor 2023 - 2024



As we enter this month of December and also come to the end of the Calendar year and the first half of Our Rotary Year, I request that we focus on two main issues in this month, that is payment of our Rotary International Dues and the completion of Registration for the 99th District Conference and Assembly. "

Fellow Rotarians, Rotaractors and friends of Rotary, I bring you salutations from District 9214 and thank you for whatever you are doing in an effort to Create Hope in Our Communities in particular and the World in general.

I have so far visited 75% of Clubs in Our District and I am happy to report that I am impressed by the great work Rotarians are doing, thank you friends for your selflessness. I am so Impressed by your commitment to Our District Signature Project of Promoting Basic Education and Literacy, the Membership efforts, the support to the Rotary Foundation among others.

As we enter this month of December and also come to the end of the Calendar year and the first half of Our Rotary Year, I request that we focus on two main issues in this month, that is payment of our Rotary International Dues and the completion of Registration for the 99th District Conference and Assembly.

With regard to Dues payment, I call upon all of us to pay our second Semi Annual dues this month such that we do not lose membership. Our District performed so well with regard to membership growth since the year started and its my prayer that we consolidate these achievements by avoiding losing members as we cross in the second half of the Rotary Year.

About the District Conference and Assembly, the early bird window is closing on 31st December 2023 and registration is at USD 200 and USD 120 for the Rotarians and Rotaractors respectively. I want to encourage all of us to register before the end of December to allow the District Conference and Assembly Committee prepare well for the Event and work on the necessary logistics in time.

Once again, I sincerely thank each and everyone of you fellow Rotarians and Rotaractors for doing good in the world. As your team leader, I continue to get energized by your dedication to service. I am so proud of you and I am sure we shall finish Our Rotary Year strong, thank you for Creating Hope. Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year 2024.



Health in Focus:

Celebrating Six Months of Impactful Rotary Service

HCP Annie Ninyesiga

President, Rotary Club of Bwebajja



This month serves as a poignant reminder of our collective responsibility to promote and advocate for health and well-being. As Rotarians, we understand that good health is the foundation for a fulfilling life, and it is our duty to extend a helping hand to those in need.

Dear Friends,

As we gather here to mark the sixth month of the Rotary year, it is both an honor and a privilege to reflect on the incredible journey we have embarked upon as the Rotary Club of Bwebajja. With December ushering in the theme of "Disease Prevention and Treatment," we find ourselves at the heart of Rotary's commitment to making a lasting impact on global health.

This month serves as a poignant reminder of our collective responsibility to promote and advocate for health and well-being. As Rotarians, we understand that good health is the foundation for a fulfilling life, and it is our duty to extend a helping hand to those in need. Through our various projects and initiatives, we are actively contributing to disease prevention and treatment, embodying the true spirit of Rotary.

Reaching the halfway mark of our Rotary year is a significant milestone, one that calls for both celebration and reflection. It is heartening to witness the dedication and passion with which our members have embraced our mission. Each project, each act of service, is a testament to the impact we can achieve when we work together with a shared vision.

Looking ahead, let us continue to be the beacon of hope in our community. May the second half of the Rotary year be filled with even greater accomplishments, as we strive to make a positive difference in the lives of those we serve. Our commitment to "Service Above Self" has been the guiding force behind our success, and I have no doubt that it will continue to propel us toward even greater heights.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for your unwavering support and dedication. Together, let us continue to be a force for good, making a lasting impact on the world around us. Wishing you all a joyous holiday season and a prosperous New Year!



Gratitude for Six Months of Hope and Collaboration

Hope Tushemererwe

President, Rotaract Club of Bwebajja



This month serves as a poignant reminder of our collective responsibility to promote and advocate for health and well-being. As Rotarians, we understand that good health is the foundation for a fulfilling life, and it is our duty to extend a helping hand to those in need.

Dear Rotaract Family,

As we stand at the intersection of reflection and anticipation, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the incredible journey we have embarked upon in the last six months as the Rotaract Club of Bwebajja. Your unwavering support and commitment to creating hope in the world have been the driving force behind our collective success.

To our dedicated members, thank you for standing with me and each other as we tirelessly worked to make a positive impact in our community and beyond. Your passion and enthusiasm for service have not only shaped the identity of our club but have also created ripples of change that extend far beyond what we could have imagined.

A special note of appreciation goes to our invaluable partners and sponsors, with a heartfelt thank you to the Rotary Club of Bwebajja, our mother club. Your guidance, mentorship, and collaborative spirit have been instrumental in our growth and success. Together, we have proven that when Rotary and Rotaract work hand in hand, the impact is profound and meaningful.

I also extend my deepest gratitude to those who have generously donated to the Rotary Foundation. Your contributions have fueled the engine of positive change, enabling Rotary to carry out vital projects and initiatives globally. To those who have not yet had the opportunity to contribute, I encourage you to join us in supporting the Rotary Foundation. Your donation, no matter the size, makes a significant difference in our collective ability to create lasting change.

As we look ahead to the next six months, let us continue to be beacons of hope, lighting up the lives of those we serve. Our journey is evidence to the power of collective action, and I am confident that together, we will achieve even greater heights of service and impact.

Thank you all for your dedication, passion, and unwavering commitment. Here's to six months of creating hope, and to many more ahead!



The Siren Articles





Building a Healthier Tomorrow:

Rotary's Global Impact on Disease Prevention



Rtn. Josephine Kayaga
RFHD Committee Member

In the relentless pursuit of a healthier world, Rotary International has emerged as a formidable force, channeling its resources and expertise towards disease prevention on a global scale. With a commitment to making a lasting impact, Rotary has played a pivotal role in shaping a future where communities are resilient and equipped to combat health challenges.

One of Rotary's flagship initiatives is its relentless campaign against preventable diseases. Through strategic partnerships and collaborative efforts, Rotary has spearheaded vacci-

nation drives, disease awareness campaigns, and health infrastructure development in communities around the world. The organization's commitment to eradicating polio, for instance, has been nothing short of exemplary. Rotary's contributions, both in terms of funding and hands-on involvement, have brought the world tantalizingly close to achieving the dream of a polio-free planet.

Rotary's influence extends beyond the realm of infectious diseases. The organization actively engages in promoting overall health and well-being by addressing issues such as maternal and child health, nutrition, and access to clean water. By investing in community health projects, Rotary ensures that individuals and families have the necessary tools to lead healthier lives. These initiatives are not just about treating illnesses but also about creating sustainable solutions that empower communities to take charge of their own health.

Furthermore, Rotary's global network of professionals and volunteers amplifies its impact.

The organization's emphasis on collaboration and knowledge-sharing allows for the implementation of effective, context-specific solutions. Whether it's providing medical training, distributing essential resources, or leveraging technology for health interventions, Rotary's multifaceted approach ensures that no stone is left unturned in the quest for a healthier tomorrow.

As we confront new health challenges, Rotary remains at the forefront, adapting its strategies to address emerging threats. The organization's agility and commitment to innovation position it as a crucial player in the ongoing battle for global health. By building partnerships, raising awareness, and investing in sustainable solutions, Rotary International continues to shape a future where communities thrive, unburdened by the shackles of preventable diseases. In essence, Rotary is not just building a healthier tomorrow; it is laying the foundation for a world where health is a universal right, and no community is left behind in the pursuit of well-being.



Rtn. Nashiba Namitala
Girl Child Empowerment Officer

Dear Readers,

It is my pleasure to congratulate the editorial team for publishing these great articles in the Siren magazine, which restore readers' confidence, enlighten their vision, polish their skills, and ignite their passion for reading and writing. Having the passion to read and write is a blessing. While writing makes a man exact, reading makes a man full.

I would like to thank our own Rtn Elizabeth Nagawa, Headteacher St Charles Lwanga Primary School Kawuku for inviting RC Bwebajja to their annual D.E.A.R (Drop Everything And Read) day. What a wonderful day it was, as we were encouraged to "READ".

The learners provided us with an informative poem and entertainment. We thank them for their efforts. Rotarians also got the privilege to entertain the learners, courtesy of PP Miriam. Thank you all for the beautiful donations you made to the

Beyond the Girl Child: Protecting and Empowering the Boy Child

school, i.e. scholastic materials. I really loved the textbooks. These were very much in line with the day's theme. Our dear sponsors, Euroflex Ltd led by Marketing Manager Clare Kemigisha who is always with us and Victory Travel centre, thank you for the beautiful items donated to the school. May the Almighty God richly bless those giving hands.

Special thanks go to the Girl Child Empowerment committee, Rtns Martha Luyirika, Lilian Nalwoga, Evelyn Bageya, President Hope, and Rtr Shamim Namuli from our Rotaract club, as well as PE Andrew Ssenabulya and Rtn Counsel Wanda, and all members of the Bwebajja family who took the time to interact with the girls.

On this DEAR day, we also shared briefly with the boy child. Society has put a lot of emphasis on the girl child, forgetting that boys are also vulnerable. It is our responsibility as parents to nurture these future men because whatever happens to them will affect the girl child as well. In addition to building a ring of protection for the girls, we should also encourage the boys to report, to talk, to express their emotions, feelings, and vulnerabilities, while keeping an eye on them as well. Keeping certain matters to one's self is typical of men, you know?

Often times when the girls are okay, we presume all is well, not thinking that there could be an evil that is walking undetected and eating away the innocence of the boy child. The most disappointing bit is that these are our close relatives, house helps, staff, etc. yet many of us find it okay to leave the boys in the guardianship of any of those mentioned above but please learn that their safety may not be guaranteed.

My fellow parents, I encourage you to increase your physical interactions with the boys. You may as a family choose who the children/boys find more comfortable to deal with. When these children are asked to open up and talk about their childhood memories or so, most of them say it happened right at home, in the house, by.....

Dear parents, let's join efforts as we nurture our children into healthy, confident, disciplined, caring and responsible citizens.

I conclude, by thanking Almighty God for all his providences and mercies upon the club. Thank you founding member of RC Bwebajja PAG Moses Q Galabuzi, all the past presidents, current president POP Annie Ninyesiga and all the Rotarians of RC Bwebajja for all your sacrificed time and resources to keep the club shining. Thank you, all the companies that are sponsoring the club. May God bless us all, Allahuma Ameen.



A Heartfelt Christmas Message from the Bwebajja Family



Rtn. Ritah Mirembe
Family of Rotary Officer

Dear Rotary Family,

As the holiday season wraps us in its warm embrace, it brings me immense joy to extend heartfelt Christmas wishes to each and every member of our incredible Rotary Club of Bwebajja family!

This festive season isn't just about tinsel and twinkling lights; it's about the radiant spirit of giving, the joy of togetherness, and the magic of spreading love far and wide. In the true Rotary

fashion, let's make this Christmas more than a date on the calendar — let's make it a celebration of service, kindness, and shared camaraderie.

Reflecting on the Year of Service:

What a remarkable year it has been! Together, we've sown seeds of positive change, nurtured the spirit of community, and watched our projects blossom into impactful legacies. From healthcare initiatives to educational endeavors, our collective efforts have painted the canvas of Bwebajja with strokes of hope and goodwill.

Gifts of Compassion and Caring:

This Christmas, let's remember that the greatest gifts aren't found under the tree but in the smiles, we create and the lives we touch. As Rotarians, our commitment to service is a gift that keeps on giving. So, let's unwrap the joy of making a difference and share it generously with our community

and beyond.

Santa's Wishlist for Bwebajja: A year filled with more laughter during our meetings, overflowing support for our upcoming service projects, continued growth of our Rotary family, abundant enthusiasm for the challenges that lie ahead, and endless Rotary love and fellowship.

Ring in the New Year with Rotary Cheer:

As we bid farewell to 2023 and welcome the dawn of a new year, let's carry the spirit of Rotary with us. May our resolutions be filled with service, our ambitions be guided by fellowship, and our hearts be open to the endless possibilities that await us in the coming months.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas filled with laughter, love, and the warmth of Rotary fellowship. May the holiday season wrap you in its magic, and may the New Year be filled with opportunities for service and shared joy.



Merry
Christmas

Let's Make this Christmas a Celebration of **Service, Kindness, and Camaraderie**



Rtn. Charlotte Atukunda
Family of Rotary Committee

“

As we exchange gifts and gather with loved ones, let's also reflect on the greater gift of togetherness. Christmas is an invitation to connect, bridge gaps, and build bridges of understanding. In a world that can sometimes seem divided, the shared spirit of Christmas can serve as a reminder of our common humanity.”

Amidst the twinkling lights, festive decorations, and warmth of family gatherings, let's redefine the spirit of Christmas. Let's make this Christmas more than a gift-giving holiday. Let's make it a time to celebrate service, kindness and camaraderie.

Christmas is more than just a date on the calendar; it's an opportunity to embrace the true essence of the season. In the midst of the hustle and bustle, there is an opportunity to spread joy through service. Whether it's volunteering at a service project, or simply lending a helping hand to a neighbor in need, the magic of Christmas is enhanced when we reach out our hearts and hands to others.

Kindness, the cornerstone of holiday cheer, becomes the most valuable gift we can give. In a world that sometimes seems rushed and impersonal, the simplicity of a kind gesture can be a beacon of hope. Whether it's a smile, a thoughtful word, or a small act of generosity, these gestures have the power to change the season for both giver and receiver.

Camaraderie is the heart of the Christmas holiday. It's a time to come together, make memories, and strengthen the bonds that keep our communities alive. Laughter shared while enjoying meals with others, the singing of carols, or the unity created by collective acts of service— these are the cherished moments that make the holidays so special.

As we exchange gifts and gather with loved ones, let's also reflect on the greater gift of togetherness. Christmas is an invitation to connect, bridge gaps, and build bridges of understanding. In a world that can sometimes seem divided, the shared spirit of Christmas can serve as a reminder of our common humanity.

So, let's commit together to fill this year's Christmas with the real magic it holds – the magic of service, kindness, and shared camaraderie. In doing so, we not only celebrate the season but contribute to a world where the spirit of Christmas extends beyond December 25th and creates a lasting impact that reverberates throughout the year.



The Siren Stories





Rotary Club of Bwebajja Celebrates **Cultural Pride and Service** at District Governor's Visit



Rtn. Anne Nambatya
Chair organizing Committee

On November 23, 2023, the Rotary Club of Bwebajja proudly hosted District Governor Francisco Ssemwanga, marking a momentous occasion filled with camaraderie, cultural vibrancy, and a steadfast commitment to service this Hope Creator Year.

The DG's visit commenced with a spirited board meeting, where the governor engaged in insightful discussions with board members. Ideas were exchanged and updates were shared, setting the stage for a day brimming with Rotary enthusiasm. A comprehensive presentation ensued, highlighting the club's remarkable achievements and initiatives undertaken since the inception of the current Rotary year.

Following the board meeting, the atmosphere seamlessly transitioned into an electrifying club assembly, where both DG Ssemwanga and Club president Annie Ninyesiga took to the stage to deliver inspiring keynote speeches. Their words resonated with recognition for the collective efforts of the Rotary community while painting a vivid vision for the future, emphasizing an unwavering dedication to the principle of "Service Above Self."

In accordance with the true spirit of Rotary, the District Governor inducted eight new members into the club, effectively expanding the Rotary family and reaffirming the club's unwavering commitment to member-

ship growth and inclusivity. Furthermore, the event served as a platform to acknowledge and honour individuals who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to The Rotary Foundation (TRF) through remarkable contributions.

The celebrations etched themselves into the annals of Rotary history due to the cultural pride exhibited by RC Bwebajja club members. Attired in traditional Kiganda cultural wear (Kanzus and Gomesis), these members showcased their fashion sense with pride. This unique and lively touch infused the event with an atmosphere of celebration that permeated the evening.

Amidst it all, the event featured an abundance of refreshments, delectable food, and lively entertainment provided by enthusiastic Rotaractors. Laughter, shared stories, and collective joy exemplified the Rotary spirit that thrives within the club.

The official visit of the District Governor this year surpasses the boundaries of a mere event; it was a celebration of Rotary's core values – service, fellowship, diversity, and integrity. As the Rotary Club of Bwebajja continues to leave an unerasable mark on the community, this day served as a testament to the power of unity, community, and the enduring impact of Rotary service.



Cultural Jubilation and Generosity: Bwebajja's 2023 TRF Extravaganza

Rtn. Miriam Kyeyune
Chair Organizing Committee

On Thursday, November 16th, the Rotary and Rotaract Clubs of Bwebajja came together in an exciting mix of culture, camaraderie, and charitable spirit to present their first TRF Extravaganza.

The evening unfolded with the distinguished presence of top Rotary District 9214 leaders, transforming it into a night of joy, fellowship, and generous giving. The distinguished guest list



included the esteemed DG Francisco Ssemwanga, the dynamic DGN Christine Kawooya, the visionary IPDG Peace Taremwa, the inspirational IPDRR Francis Matovu, the charismatic DRRE JB Sengooba, the efficient DES Harriet Obbo, the dedicated Country Chair Ismael Mukasa, and the honorable PDG Emmanuel Katongole as the Guest of Honor. With such an illustrious lineup, the event promised to be an unforgettable occasion.

The festivities began with the official club fellowship, which paved the way for an evening filled with cultural richness and philanthropic fervor. Embracing diversity, members donned a wide range of traditional attire, transforming the venue into an ethnic mosaic celebrating Uganda's rich culture. The cultural immersion continued with captivating performances by the Nkwanzi Cultural Troupe and the talented students from Boston High School. Traditional beats, mesmerizing dances, and colorful costumes transported attendees on a cultural journey, highlighting the beauty and diversity that make Uganda truly unique.

As the evening unfolded, the spotlight turned to recognition and appreciation. Awards were presented to outstanding individuals and buddy groups that had

demonstrated exceptional support for The Rotary Foundation. The cheers and applause echoed the gratitude felt by the entire Rotary family for their collective efforts in advancing the mission of service and goodwill.

The moment everyone had been eagerly anticipating arrived – the Guest of Honor's speech. PDG Emmanuel Katongole took the stage with charisma and passion, sharing insights into the impactful work of the Foundation. In a surprise that electrified the crowd, he announced a generous donation of 20 million shillings towards the club's joint project at Kitala Secondary School. The room erupted in applause, a testament to the power of collaboration and the profound impact Rotary can make when hearts unite for a common cause.

In its essence, the TRF Extravaganza was not merely a fundraiser; it was a celebration of unity, culture, and the unwavering commitment to Rotary ideals. As the night drew to a close, the echoes of laughter and the memories created lingered on, reminding everyone that when Rotary and Rotaract come together with a shared purpose, they create not just events but experiences that resonate with the true spirit of service and fellowship.





Embracing Growth and Service:

RC Bwebajja welcomes Eight New Members

Rtn. Bro Innocent Kaleebi
Membership Director



In a momentous occasion during the District Governor's visit, the Rotary Club of Bwebajja opened its doors and hearts to welcome eight new members into the Rotary family. This significant addition not only marked a boost in the club's membership but also reflected a commitment to expanding the reach and impact of Rotary's service in the community.

The induction ceremony, a highlight of the DG's visit, was filled with a palpable sense of anticipation and enthusiasm. As the new members stood before their fellow Rotarians, there was a shared recognition of the responsibility and privilege that comes with being part of an organization dedicated to making a positive difference in the world.

Each new member brought a unique set of skills, experiences, and perspectives, enriching the diversity that defines Rotary. From business leaders to community advocates, the new recruits represented a cross-section of the local community, united by a common desire to contribute to the greater good.

The ceremony was not just a formality; it was a symbolic commitment to Rotary's ideals of service, fellowship, diversity, and ethical leadership. The existing members, proud witnesses to the growth of their Rotary family, embraced the newcomers with open arms, emphasizing the sense of camaraderie that defines Rotary clubs worldwide.

The induction also served as a reminder of the enduring appeal of Rotary's mission. People from

various walks of life were drawn to Rotary's ethos of "Service Above Self," eager to be part of a global network that works tirelessly to address the pressing needs of communities.

The new members, having taken the Rotary oath, now embark on a journey of service, guided by the principles of Rotary International. They join hands with their fellow Rotarians to undertake projects that uplift the community, promote education, improve healthcare, and foster a spirit of goodwill.

The Rotary Club of Bwebajja, through this influx of new members, reaffirms its commitment to adapt and evolve, ensuring its relevance in an ever-changing world. As the club grows, so does its capacity to make a meaningful impact, turning challenges into opportunities and fostering positive change within the community.

In welcoming these eight new members, the Rotary Club of Bwebajja not only expands its ranks but also deepens its roots in the community, ensuring that the spirit of Rotary continues to thrive and resonate with those who share a passion for service and a vision of a better, more connected world. The District Governor's visit, already a momentous occasion, became even more significant as it marked not just a visitation but a celebration of Rotary's growth, unity, and unwavering commitment to service.



Hope Uniting Hearts

Experience the 99th DCA at Munyonyo: where hope unites hearts in a tranquil blend of relaxation and service-driven opportunities.

Venue:

Speke Resort Munyonyo
24th - 27th April 2024

Early Bird

Rotarians - USD 200
Rotaractors - USD 120

Late Registration

Rotarians - USD 250
Rotaractors - USD 150

<https://dca.rd9214.org/>

Community Service





Hope for Kanyegaramire: A Collaborative Endeavor by Rotaract Clubs



Rtr. Kizza Godfrey Lubuuka
RAC Bwebajja's Projects Director



In a gesture of compassion, the Rotaract clubs extended their support by donating clothes to the community. This act of kindness not only addressed immediate needs but also underscored the clubs' commitment to the overall well-being and dignity of the residents of Kanyegaramire."

In a heart-warming display of unity and service, the Rotaract Club of Bwebajja, in collaboration with Euroflex Ltd and the Rotaract Clubs of Kigo and Kyenjojo, embarked on a transformative journey to uplift the lives of the Kanyegaramire community through the impactful project, "Hope for Kanyegaramire." This multifaceted initiative aimed to bring about positive and sustainable change in the community, addressing its most pressing needs and nurturing its future.

A vital step towards ensuring the community's well-being was the donation of a water tank, a beacon of hope amidst scarcity of clean water. Recognizing access to clean water as a fundamental human right, the Rotaract clubs took a decisive step to address this critical need. The water tank stands as a symbol of resilience and sustainability, providing the community of Kanyegaramire with a reliable source of clean water for years to come.

Education, the cornerstone of community development, was not overlooked in "Hope for Kanyegaramire." With a generous donation of scholastic materials to Standard Christian School Nsengwe, the Rotaract clubs empowered young minds to pursue their educational aspirations. This contribution underscores the clubs' unwavering commitment to nurturing the next generation, recognizing education as a catalyst for individual and societal

growth.

Environmental stewardship was a cornerstone of "Hope for Kanyegaramire." Embracing a greener future, the Rotaract clubs organized a tree planting initiative, recognizing the profound impact that trees have on the ecological balance. Beyond their aesthetic appeal, trees provide long-term benefits, including improved air quality, enhanced biodiversity, and erosion control. This component of the project showcases the clubs' dedication to environmental sustainability and their commitment to creating a lasting positive impact on the planet.

In a gesture of compassion, the Rotaract clubs extended their support by donating clothes to the community. This act of kindness not only addressed immediate needs but also underscored the clubs' commitment to the overall well-being and dignity of the residents of Kanyegaramire. The donation served as a tangible reminder that even small acts of kindness can make a significant difference in the lives of others.

The collaborative effort of the Rotaract Clubs of Bwebajja, Kigo, and Kyenjojo, coupled with the unwavering support of Euroflex Ltd, exemplifies the transformative power of partnership. Through "Hope for Kanyegaramire," these clubs have not only provided tangible support to the community but have also fostered a sense of hope, unity, and resilience. These actions embody the true spirit of Rotaract, where "Service Above Self" is not just a motto but a way of life.

REI Kasese

3RD TO 6TH

OCTOBER, 2024

Join the
Rotaract
Earth Initiative
in **Kasese:**

**A Call to
Action for
Sustainable
Impact**



Rtr. Ronald Mutebi Kizza
2024 REI Chair

As the world grapples with the escalating threat of climate change, the Rotaract Earth Initiative (REI) stands as a radiant beacon of hope, poised to make a transformative impact on Climate Change, Food Insecurity, and Primary Health Care in Uganda. Rooted in the unwavering commitment of dedicated Rotaractors, REI, alongside a multitude of partners, is preparing to embark on its 11th edition, set to unfold in the breathtaking scenery of Kasese District.

REI Kasese Objectives:

1. Afforestation Drive:

With the ambitious goal of planting over 10,000 trees in Kasese's schools and 20,000 in other regions of the country, this initiative aims to foster environmental consciousness and sustainability, laying the groundwork for a greener future.

2. Renewable Energy Infrastructure:

REI is committed to enhancing health-care and educational facilities by providing Solar Lights and Solar Panels to local health centers and government schools. This aligns with the Ministry of Health and Education's efforts to implement sustainable solar energy solutions, ensuring access to reliable energy sources.

3. Environment and Climate Action Conference:

REI plans to convene a two-day conference in July 2024, themed "Safe and Clean Energy Solutions for Sustainable Communities." This event will serve as a platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration among stakeholders, working in conjunction with schools and the Ministry of Environment to explore innovative solutions for a sustainable future.

4. Menstrual Hygiene Education:

Empowering young girls with sustainable menstrual hygiene solutions, this initiative aims to train 1000 girls on the use of reusable sanitary pads and construct incinerators in 10 schools in Kasese. This will promote proper waste disposal and foster a healthier environment for girls.

5. Plastic Reduction Education:

Recognizing the detrimental effects of plastic pollution, REI seeks to raise awareness and promote alternatives. By training 1000 students on ending plastics, this initiative will encourage a shift towards eco-friendly practices.

6. Sustainable Alternatives Workshops:

REI is committed to fostering a shift towards sustainable alternatives through

education and skill-building. Organizing training sessions for communities and students on producing environmentally-friendly briquettes and paper bags, this initiative will empower individuals with the knowledge and skills to adopt sustainable practices in their daily lives.

How You Can Be a Part of REI Kasese:

REI extends an open invitation to individuals, organizations, and communities to join forces and make a tangible difference in Kasese. Whether your passion lies in afforestation, renewable energy, climate action, menstrual hygiene, plastic reduction, or sustainable alternatives, your involvement is invaluable.

Register Now and Be a Changemaker:

Visit our website <https://tujag-uzo.com/rotary/events/rotaract-earth-initiative-kasese-edition-4akeeu> to register for REI Kasese. Your participation will contribute to building a sustainable and resilient future for the people of Kasese and beyond.

Together, let's embark on a journey towards a more sustainable and eco-conscious tomorrow. Join the Rotaract Earth Initiative in Kasese and be a part of a movement that leaves a lasting legacy of positive change.

A professional portrait of Michael Ayebazibwe, a Black man with a mustache, wearing a dark navy blue suit, a white shirt, and a red patterned tie. He is standing with his hands clasped in front of him, wearing a silver watch on his left wrist. The background features a white wall with yellow diagonal lines and a blue gradient at the bottom. A dark blue vertical bar is on the left side.

**OUR
LEADERS**

Michael Ayebazibwe
The Transformative & Steadfast Leader



In the vibrant tapestry of the Rotary Club of Bwebajja, Michael Ayebazibwe stands tall as the 7th President, steering the helm during the transformative Change Maker Rotary Year of 2021/2022. His journey commenced in 2017, joining the club and receiving his induction on the 1st of July, during the installation ceremony of the 3rd President, PP Allan Kawooya.

June 20, 2021, marked a pivotal moment as Ayebazibwe ascended as the Change Maker President, an occasion graced by the presence of PDG Kenneth Mugisha and IPDG Peace Taremba, symbolizing the transition of leadership and a change-making era ahead.

Under his stewardship, the club witnessed a meteoric rise in

membership, surging from 31 to a formidable 67. Notably, some new members were inducted by none other than the esteemed Change Maker RI President Shekhar Mehta. The club's commitment to nurturing growth extended beyond its ranks, birthing its first Rotary Club offspring, RC Bwerenga, a testament to its dedication to Rotary's expansion.

The accolades piled on, adorned with the glittering recognition of two prestigious awards at the 97th DCA in Arusha, Tanzania, solidifying the club's stature as a beacon of excellence within the Rotary sphere.

Looking ahead, Ayebazibwe envisions an upward trajectory for the club, emphasizing continued expansion in membership, amplified contributions

to service projects, and an unwavering commitment to bolstering support for the Rotary Foundation. The roadmap entails RC Bwebajja nurturing more clubs, spearheading impactful projects, and elevating their contributions to Rotary's noble causes.

Reflecting on his Rotary voyage, Ayebazibwe recounts the invaluable rewards unearthed along the way. A mosaic of encounters with professionals, entrepreneurs, and visionaries enriched his journey, offering opportunities that might have eluded him outside the realm of Rotary. The global footprint of Rotary has opened doors to a plethora of opportunities within Uganda and beyond, enabling seamless connections with the global Rotary family.

In Ayebazibwe's tenure, the Rotary Club of Bwebajja witnessed an era of growth, innovation, and transformation. His legacy remains an embodiment of steadfast leadership, propelling the club toward a future marked by expansion, impact, and an unwavering commitment to Rotary's ethos.





OUR PARTNERS
in Service

10

Compelling Reasons Why You Should Attend a Rotary District Conference



Rtr. Belinda Akampulira
RAC Bwebajja Onto DCA Officer

Rotary District Conferences are not merely annual gatherings; they are dynamic celebrations of fellowship, service, and inspiration. Attending a District Conference offers a multitude of benefits that extend far beyond the event itself, making it a worthwhile endeavour for Rotarians of all levels. Here are 10 compelling reasons why you should make attending a Rotary District Conference a priority:

1. Network with Like-Minded Individuals:

District Conferences bring together Rotarians from diverse backgrounds, providing a unique opportunity to network with like-minded individuals who share a passion for service and community development.

2. Gain Inspirational Insights:

Immerse yourself in motivational speeches, engaging workshops, and presentations by notable speakers. District Conferences are a treasure trove of inspirational insights that can rekindle your enthusiasm for Rotary service.

3. Learn Best Practices:

Discover successful projects and initiatives from other Rotary clubs within the district. These conferences offer a platform for sharing best practices, enabling you to bring valuable knowledge back to your own community.

4. Forge Lasting Friendships:

Build enduring friendships with Rotarians from neighboring clubs. The bonds formed during a District Conference can foster collaboration on future projects and initiatives.

5. Celebrate Achievements:

District Conferences are the perfect setting to celebrate the collective achievements of Rotary clubs within the district. Recognize outstanding service, impactful projects, and dedicated Rotarians who have made a difference.

6. Engage in Interactive Workshops:

Participate in interactive workshops that cover a wide range of topics, from leadership skills to project management. These workshops offer practical insights that can enhance your effectiveness as a Rotarian.

7. Discover New Opportunities:

Explore potential collaborative opportunities for future projects. The conference serves as a hub for discovering new avenues to expand the impact of Rotary in your community and beyond.

8. Stay Informed:

Stay updated on Rotary International's latest initiatives, goals, and priorities. District Conferences often feature presentations and updates from Rotary leaders, keeping you well-informed about the global Rotary movement.

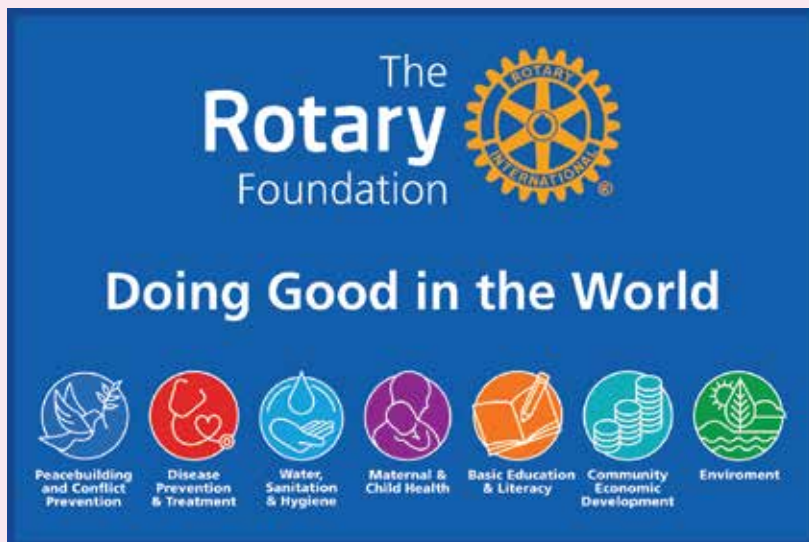
9. Experience Rotary's Diversity:

Celebrate the cultural diversity within Rotary. District Conferences often incorporate cultural showcases, allowing attendees to appreciate the rich tapestry of traditions that make Rotary a truly global organization.

10. Reignite Your Passion for Service:

District Conferences have the power to reignite your passion for Rotary service. The collective energy, shared stories, and commitment to making a positive impact can inspire and motivate you to continue your journey of "Service Above Self."

Attending a Rotary District Conference is not just an event; it's an investment in your personal and professional growth as a Rotarian. The experiences gained and connections forged during these conferences contribute to the collective strength and impact of the Rotary movement.



Rotaractors: Catalysts for Change Through the Rotary Foundation Support

“

Rotaractors' donations to the Rotary Foundation are not just financial contributions; they are investments in a world where positive change knows no bounds.”

In the dynamic world of service and community impact, Rotaractors stand as vibrant agents of positive change. One powerful avenue for amplifying their impact is through contributing to the Rotary Foundation. Here's why Rotaractors should consider making a meaningful donation to this pivotal organization.

Global Reach, Local Impact: The Rotary Foundation serves as a conduit for Rotaractors to extend their influence beyond local boundaries. By contributing, Rotaractors become part of a global network that channels resources to areas in dire need, fostering meaningful change on an international scale.

Foundation's Pillars of Impact: The Rotary Foundation focuses on six key areas, including promoting peace, providing clean water, saving mothers and children, supporting education, growing local economies, and eradicating diseases. Rotaractors' donations directly contribute

to these vital initiatives, aligning their passion for service with tangible, impactful projects.

Sustainable Development: Rotaractors are the torchbearers of sustainability, and their contributions to the Rotary Foundation play a crucial role in fostering sustainable development. By investing in projects that address long-term needs, Rotaractors become integral partners in creating lasting change within communities.

Empowerment Through Education: Education is a cornerstone of positive transformation. The Rotary Foundation's commitment to supporting education aligns with Rotaractors' vision for a brighter future. Donations enable scholarships, vocational training, and educational programs that empower individuals and communities.

Fostering Peace and Understanding: Rotaractors, driven by a passion for peace, find a natural ally in the Rotary Foundation's dedication to fostering peace and understanding. Contributions support initiatives that address the root causes of conflict, bringing communities together in harmony.

Building Rotary's Legacy: Rotaractors are not just contributors; they are custodians of Rotary's legacy. By donating to the Rotary Foundation, Rotaractors actively participate in building a legacy of service that transcends generations, leaving an indelible mark on the world.



Rtr. Mawanda Derrick
TRF Director RAC Bwebajja

Enhancing Rotaractors' Impact: Donating to the Rotary Foundation elevates the impact of individual Rotaractors. Through collective contributions, Rotaractors amplify their influence, collectively driving change that surpasses what any one individual or club could achieve alone.

In essence, Rotaractors' donations to the Rotary Foundation are not just financial contributions; they are investments in a world where positive change knows no bounds. By supporting the Foundation, Rotaractors align themselves with a global force for good, contributing to a future where service, sustainability, and peace reign supreme.



Rotaractors: Leaders Shaping Today's World



Rotaractors embody the spirit of "Service Above Self" in action. From organizing impactful community projects to driving initiatives that address pressing global issues, Rotaractors demonstrate that leadership knows no age constraints."

In the realm of service, leadership, and positive change, Rotaractors stand as a formidable force, challenging the conventional notion that they are merely the leaders of tomorrow. In truth, Rotaractors are the leaders of today, actively shaping the world around them with passion, dedication, and a commitment to service.

Rotaractors embody the spirit of "Service Above Self" in action. From organizing impactful community projects to driving initiatives that address pressing global issues, Rotaractors demonstrate that leadership knows no age constraints. Their involvement in Rotary projects and community initiatives proves that effective leadership is not confined to the future but is a skill set actively honed and applied today.

Rotaractors are not waiting in the wings; they are on the front lines, driving change where it is needed most. Their hands-on approach to service projects reflects a leadership style that is both proactive and responsive to the pressing needs of the world.

Furthermore, Rotaractors' leadership extends beyond project management. Their ability to foster inclusivity, cultivate a sense of belonging, and inspire others to join the cause exemplifies leadership in its truest form. By creating environments that encourage collaboration and innovation, Rotaractors are cultivating the leaders of tomorrow while simultaneously leading today.



Rtr. Atim Mercy Kukundakwe
RAC Bwebajja

Rotaractors' impact is not limited to the immediate community; it resonates across borders. Their projects contribute to Rotary International's overarching goals, aligning with the organization's commitment to making a difference on a global scale. Through initiatives like the Rotaract Earth Initiative, Rotaractors actively engage in addressing critical issues such as climate change, food insecurity, and healthcare.

In essence, Rotaractors are not waiting for a distant tomorrow to assume leadership roles. They are seizing the reins today, demonstrating that effective leadership is not constrained by age but fueled by passion, dedication, and a genuine commitment to making a positive impact. As the architects of today's transformative initiatives, Rotaractors are crafting a future where their leadership continues to shine brightly, illuminating the path towards a better world for all.

“

Collaboration is a key element in the success of any Rotaract club. Sponsors and advisers can actively partner with Rotaractors to plan and execute impactful service projects.”

Sponsors and advisers play a pivotal role in the success and vibrancy of Rotaract clubs. Their guidance, mentorship, and active involvement can shape the trajectory of these clubs and empower young leaders to make a lasting impact. Here are five key ways sponsors and advisers can support Rotaract clubs:

1. Mentor and Motivate

Effective mentorship is the cornerstone of a thriving Rotaract club. Sponsors and advisers should

engage in open communication, providing guidance to club members as they navigate their leadership roles and initiate service projects. By sharing experiences, offering insights, and serving as a source of motivation, sponsors and advisers can empower Rotaractors to reach their full potential.

2. Learn Together

Sponsors and advisers should embrace a spirit of continuous learning alongside Rotaract club members. Actively participate in club meetings, workshops, and training sessions. By staying informed about the challenges and opportunities faced by Rotaractors, sponsors and advisers can foster an environment of shared knowledge, ensuring that everyone involved is on a collective journey of growth and development.

3. Partner to Serve

Collaboration is a key element in the success of any Rotaract club. Sponsors and advisers can actively partner with Rotaractors to plan and execute impactful service projects.



By leveraging their experience and networks, sponsors and advisers contribute valuable resources and support, amplifying the club's capacity to make a positive difference in their community and beyond.

4. Promote Rotaract

Sponsors and advisers serve as ambassadors for Rotaract, advocating for its significance within the larger Rotary family and the community. Actively promote Rotaract by sharing success stories, encouraging participation in events, and highlighting the unique contributions Rotaractors make. By

fostering a positive image of Rotaract, sponsors and advisers contribute to its growth and influence.

5. Strengthen Rotary Connections

Facilitating strong connections between Rotaract clubs and Rotary clubs is crucial for sustained impact. Sponsors and advisers can play a vital role in building bridges between these entities, encouraging collaboration and synergy. By strengthening Rotary connections, sponsors and advisers ensure that Rotaract clubs seamlessly integrate into the larger Rotary framework, maximizing their potential for

Empowering Rotaract Clubs:

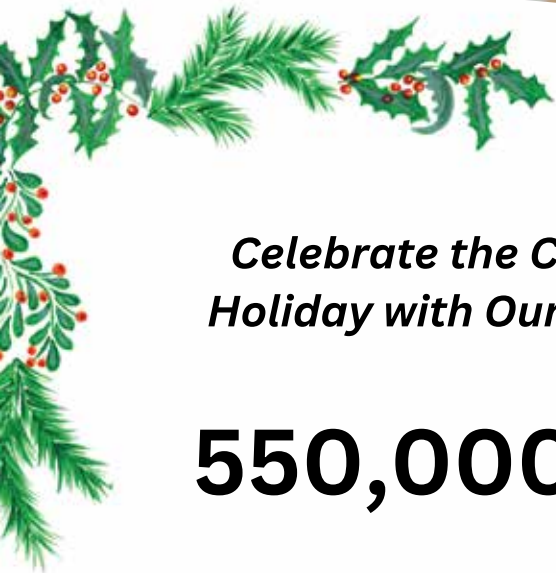
A Guide for Sponsors and Advisers



Rtr. Josph B. Ssengooba
DRRE Rotaract District 9214

service and leadership.

In conclusion, sponsors and advisers are instrumental in shaping the trajectory of Rotaract clubs. By embracing the roles of mentors, learners, collaborators, advocates, and network builders, sponsors and advisers contribute to the holistic development of Rotaract clubs and the young leaders they nurture. In doing so, they not only support the current endeavors of Rotaractors but also lay the foundation for a future generation of impactful Rotary leaders.



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