Rotary Zone 21B | Monthly Journal



One Final Step to

November 2026

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CREATE LASTING IMPACT

Region 25 in Figures towards



Rotary Regional Group 25 — Membership Tracking 2026 → 2027 Target

District	Members (1 July 2025)	Members (1 July 2026)	2026 Growth	%	Target 2026 (1 July 2026)	Towards goal 2026	Target 2027 (1 July 2027)	Current Membership	Towards goal 2027	2027 Growth	Current clubs
2420	2 286	2 366	+80	+3,5%	2 361	5	2 438	2368	-70	2	89
2430	2 339	2 541	+202	+8,6%	2 351	190	2 362	2616	254	77	110
2440	1 789	1 748	-41	-2,3%	1 880	-132	1 975	1803	-172	55	71
2452	1 965	1 926	-39	-2,0%	1 975	-49	1 985	1944	-41	18	95
2475	1 665	1 610	-55	-3,3%	1 673	-63	1 682	1620	-62	10	79
2482	1 775	1 803	+28	+1,6%	1 784	19	1 793	1842	49	39	87
2483	1 091	1 135	+44	+4,0%	1 096	39	1 102	1136	34	1	69
2485	1 002	994	-8	-0,8%	1 040	-46	1 079	1013	-66	19	47
TOTAL	**13 912**	**14 123**	**+211**	**+1,5%**	**14 160**	**-37**	**14 416**	**14 342**	**-74**	**221**	**647**
							Prev.month	***14 220***	***-196***		

Rotaract 2025–2026, 2026-2027

District	RAC clubs 2025	RAC members 2025	RAC clubs 2026	RAC members 2026	Member net growth 2026	Avg/club 2026	RAC members 2027	Member net growth 2027	Clubs
2420	38	675	40	762	+87	17,3	693	-69	40
2430	52	721	58	806	+85	13,9	807	1	58
2440	37	641	36	644	+3	18,3	658	14	36
2452	56	637	49	630	-7	11,8	590	-40	50
2475	8	67	7	53	-14	7,7	54	1	7
2482	28	189	30	226	+37	7,8	242	16	31
2483	27	232	21	201	-31	9,6	201	0	21
2485	10	150	10	151	+1	14,6	146	-5	10
Total	**256**	**3312**	**251**	**3473**	**+161**	**13,84**	**+3391**	**-82**	**+253**

President's Message

More members, more impact

Olayinka Hakeem Babalola
Rotary International President 2026/2027



Change within our-selves is the first step toward the impact we seek to make in the world.

I remember my first encounter with Rotary. I saw a Rotarian on television. I was a teenager with my thoughts elsewhere, when suddenly my full attention was on this man. I did not know it then, but that moment would change my life.

That is the thing about impact. We often imagine it as something we create out there, in a community we visit or in a project we fund. But that impact is brought about through the change within us as well.

Increasing our impact is the first priority of Rotary's Action Plan, and it asks us not only to do good but to do good that lasts and can be measured. It means choosing sustainable, needs-based projects over comfortable ones and asking honestly whether a project will still be serving people five years from now without us in the room.

When I say we must Create Lasting Impact, I do not mean impact that fades once the ribbon is cut or the well is dug.I mean the kind of impact that changes the person doing the work as surely as it changes the person benefiting from it.Rotary changes all of us. It changed a teenager watching a tele-vision broadcast. It has changed

millions of Rotarians and Rotaractors since 1905. And it will keep changing people, long after this Rotary year, if we do the work now to make sure it can.

That work starts with membership. Impact scales with people. Every hand we add is another hand that can dig a well, teach a child to read, deliver a vaccine, or simply show up for a neighbor in need. As we approach our 125thanniversary in 2030, our goal is to reach 1.25 million Rotarians and 125,000 Rotaractors worldwide. That is not anumber for a banner. It is a measure of how much more good we can do together, and how many more lives, includingour own, Rotary still has the chance to change.

I have often challenged you to do better than your best. Growing our membership is where that challenge lives most urgently. Invite the colleague who keeps asking what Rotary is about. Welcome back the member who drifted away.

Partner with the Rotaract club down the street. Every one of those conversations is a small act with lasting consequences. We have 125 years behind us and a great deal of work still ahead. Let us build the kind of Rotary that keeps changing people the way it changed me, one member, one project, one act of service at a time.

Together, let us Create Lasting Impact.

Yinka

President, Rotary International

Director's Message

Twenty-Six Dollars and Fifty Cents

Emmanuel Katongole
Director Zone 21/22, 2026-2028



Dear Rotarians, Rotaractors and friends,

Imagine being told that twenty-six dollars and fifty cents could help **change the future of humanity**. Would you believe it? In 1917, Rotary International President **Arch C. Klumph** envisioned an endowment dedicated to doing good in the world. The Rotary Club of Kansas City responded with the first contribution of **just USD 26.50**.

It was a modest beginning, but behind that gift was an extraordinary belief: that ordinary people, united by generosity and purpose, could achieve extraordinary things.

More than a century later, that belief continues to transform lives through The **Rotary Foundation**, including in the communities our **Zone 21B** clubs serve every day.

On **25 August 2020**, **Africa** celebrated a historic milestone when the World Health Organization's African Region was certified **free of indigenous wild poliovirus**. For millions of families, this was more than a public health achievement. It represented hope, freedom from fear, and a better future for generations of children.

Behind that victory were decades of sacrifice, countless vaccination campaigns, dedicated health workers, and Rotarians, many of them from our own Zone 21B districts, who gave their time, resources and influence. Through The Rotary Foundation, contributions from across the world helped turn the dream of a polio-free Africa into reality. Although our fight against polio continues, this achievement remains powerful evidence that collective generosity can accomplish what once seemed impossible.

This **November**, as we celebrate Rotary **Foundation Month**, I invite **every Rotarian in Zone 21B** to reflect on a fundamental question: When we give to The Rotary Foundation, what are we really giving?

We are giving children **opportunities** to **learn**, mothers access to **safer health care**, communities **clean water**, and families the **dignity** of healthier, more productive lives.

We are investing in possibilities we may never personally witness.

Our zone has benefited immensely from this generosity, through global grants, district grants and partnerships that have reached schools, health centres and

Director's Message

Emmanuel Katongole
Director Zone 21/22, 2026-2028

villages across our districts. But our responsibility must extend beyond receiving support. Zone 21B must become a stronger contributor to the very Foundation that has transformed our communities.

Imagine a **Zone 21B** where every Rotarian gives consistently, every club embraces a culture of generosity, and every district takes pride in both its contributions and its measurable impact.

Our giving capacities may differ, but our responsibility to participate is shared. The value of a gift is not measured only by its size, but by the commitment and lasting change behind it.

Equally important is our responsibility to safeguard every contribution through accountability, integrity and sustainable service. The trust placed in us must always translate into meaningful community impact.

As Zone 21B joins fellow Rotarians from across the continent in Kampala for the 7th All Africa Zone Institute, from 26 to 28 November 2026, under the theme Our Rotary Journey Continues, let us renew our commitment to building a stronger Foundation and a more impactful Rotary. Those who contributed USD 26.50 in 1917 could never have imagined the generations their generosity would inspire.

Let our generation in Zone 21B be remembered not merely for what we received, but for what we gave, the lives we transformed, and the legacy we left behind.

Our Rotary journey continues. Through The Rotary Foundation, so does our legacy of doing good in the world.

Emmanuel Katongole, Director Rotary International (2026-2028)



Director's Message

Emmanuel Katongole
Director Zone 21/22, 2026-2028



Guatemala — Education



Nigeria — End Polio



Philippines — Child Health



Taiwan — Environment



Brazil — Education



Australia — Nature

RPIC's Message

A Place for Each of Us

Stoyanka Georgieva (Tanya)
RPIC 2026-2029, Zone21b, Region 25



Dear friends,

Do you know what a "**key**" and a "**keyway**" are? In Bulgarian we say [shponka] and [shponkov kanal].

A keyway looks like a small "defect" in the perfect circle of the opening at the centre of a gearwheel. But this little groove has a purpose. It receives part of the key - a small metal piece seated in a matching groove on the shaft. This connects the shaft and the wheel, allowing them to turn together. The key transfers movement and force from one part to the other.

The operation of an enormous system can depend on this small, almost invisible element.

Years ago, a friend from my club drew our attention to that little groove at the centre of the Rotary wheel. He was talking about the club president: the club is the wheel, and the president is the small connecting element through which our collective energy becomes movement.

Now it seems to me that this is a place for each of us.

Even the finest club of dedicated Rotarians, the strongest district or a team of capable, active people needs this connection. Someone who, at the right moment, will take responsibility and help turn collective strength into action. To do good. ***To create lasting impact***.

That person may be the club president, the district governor or the RI president. But the place is not reserved for them. Sometimes it is filled by the person who recognises what is needed, finds a solution and brings others along.
Why am I telling you about these technical details?

Yesterday, my dear friend Altan asked a question that initially irritated me. Then it made me think. And remember the story of the key.

Look at the two logos below. One was created using Rotary's Brand Center; the other with an AI model. At first glance, there is almost no difference.



Stoyanka Georgieva (Tanya)
RPIC 2026-2029, Zone21b, Region 25

Except that the AI model had smoothed away the keyway.

A beautiful image of a wheel which, had it been an actual component in a mechanism, could no longer have transferred force as intended. One small detail had disappeared. And with it, the purpose of the connection.

This incident brought my thoughts back to people. To those around us whose contribution we may not yet have recognised. To those who have the willingness but need knowledge, trust and an opportunity to try.

Let us prepare the people around us to be ready to set the system in motion. Let us share our experience, entrust them with responsibilities and support them as they find their place.

Because, at the right moment, someone of us can be that small element through which the strength of the whole becomes movement.

Warm regards
Tanya

DG Orhan Uludag – our great host in Samsun! Thank you!



Niki Dinov Photography)
https://www.facebook.com/nikidinov

Friends: With PDG Teoman at the Public Image Summit in Samsun



We had great time together in Samsun!



Niki Dinov Photography)
https://www.facebook.com/nikidinov

Stoyanka Georgieva (Tanya)
RPIC 2026-2029, Zone21b, Region 25

My ARPIC Ayse Mine! You did great job! Thank you!



Niki Dinov Photography)
https://www.facebook.com/nikidinov

Stoyanka Georgieva (Tanya)
RPIC 2026-2029, Zone21b, Region 25

We had great time together in Samsun!





Niki Dinov Photography)
https://www.facebook.com/nikidinov

You will meet the

GameChangers from Samsun soon!



Wait for our special edition!

Meet the ***Rotarians***



Being a Rotarian Is Really Something Special!

Sometimes, we do not need long speeches to explain what Rotary means. Sometimes, all it takes is to knock on a door in a country you have never visited before, looking for help for your child, and find yourself among friends.

It all started when our youngest son began his university life in Messina, Italy. We had a few things to sort out, and I began thinking about how to reach friends who lived in Italy.

As a father, you want to make life easier for your child, especially when he is starting a new life in a foreign country with a different language, culture, and way of doing things. You want him to feel safe, supported, and never alone.

To find solutions, I contacted friends with connections in Italy. I would like to thank Lino Pignataro, Mert Korur, Tolga Bostancı, Abdullah Küreğibüyük, and Serdar Kelahmet. They were always ready to help, and I am truly grateful for their support.

But this experience soon became about much more than solving a few practical problems.

A New Experience After Nearly 30 Years in Rotary

In my nearly 30 years as a Rotarian, I had never needed this kind of support before. I always knew that Rotary brought people from different countries and cultures together through friendship and shared values. I had witnessed many examples of this over the years.

But knowing something and experiencing it personally are two different things, especially when it concerns your child.

This time, I understood the meaning of Rotary in a very personal way.

When you are a Rotarian, doors can open for you in places far from home. And behind those doors, you may find people who are ready to listen, help, and make your life a little easier.

You realize that Rotary is not just an organization you belong to. It is also a worldwide network of friendship and trust that can bring people together when they need one another.

Three Wonderful People I Met in Messina

In Messina, I met Giuseppe, Felice, and Shara. Their kindness and support made a lasting impression on me and strengthened my belief in Rotary.

I also received a warm welcome from Claudio Ciappina, President of the Rotary Club of Messina Peloro, and Francesca Lo Prete, President of the Rotary Club of Messina – Stretto di Messina.
Their friendship helped turn an unfamiliar place into a place where I felt welcome.

When you are in a foreign country and do not know the language or local systems very well, having people willing to help makes a real difference. Their support does more than solve practical problems; it also gives you peace of mind.

Being a Rotarian Is Really Something Special!

For a father trying to make things easier for his child, that feeling is priceless.
I will always remember Giuseppe, Felice, Shara, Claudio, and Francesca for the warmth and friendship they showed me.

The Power of Shared Values

What makes Rotary special is not simply that we belong to the same organization. It is that people from different countries, cultures, and backgrounds can connect through shared values.

You do not need to know someone for many years or even speak the same language to build a meaningful connection. Mutual trust and a willingness to help can be enough.
Of course, not every Rotarian knows every other Rotarian, and every experience will be different. But Rotary creates opportunities to build friendships across borders and connect with people who may be able to help when the need arises. After so many years of taking part in Rotary activities, working on projects, and meeting people from different countries, my experience in Messina reminded me of something simple but important:

Rotary is not only about what we do. It is also about how we support one another. Sometimes, a phone call, an introduction, or a helping hand can make all the difference.

You May Experience This, Too

One day, you may find yourself in a country you have never visited before, facing an unfamiliar situation. Through Rotary, you may meet someone who offers guidance, helps you solve a problem, or simply makes you feel welcome.
You may then discover that the real value of that support lies not only in what the person does, but also in the kindness and friendship behind it.

Sometimes, making a difference does not require a major project or a great effort. Connecting someone with the right person, helping with a small problem, or giving a worried parent peace of mind can be just as meaningful.

Small acts of kindness can leave a lasting impression.







The Quiet Fatigue of Gen Z

At 8:47 in the morning, before the first coffee is finished, a day has already begun several times over.
There are messages waiting. A calendar reminder. A headline designed to alarm. A friend has moved to Milano. Someone younger has launched a company. Someone else has posted a photograph from a beach on a Tuesday morning. An email marked “gentle reminder” has arrived overnight.
Nothing dramatic has happened.
And yet the mind is already crowded.
This may be one of the quieter truths about Gen Z: their exhaustion is rarely theatrical. It does not always look like collapse. More often, it looks like functioning perfectly well while carrying a low electrical hum in the background.
They work. They reply. They show up.
They also live inside a world that almost never stops asking for their attention.
That distinction matters.

Every generation has known fatigue, of course. There is nothing uniquely difficult about being young now, just as there was nothing easy about being young before. Previous generations lived through wars, recessions, political upheaval, social restrictions and forms of physical labour that many young people today will never know.
But fatigue changes shape.
For Gen Z, it often arrives less as weight than as noise.
A thousand small demands. A thousand small decisions. A thousand glimpses into lives they are not living.
The phone beside the bed is an alarm clock, a workplace, a newspaper, a bank, a social club, a shop window, a dating pool, a mirror and, occasionally, a source of panic.
It is difficult to leave work when work has no door.
It is difficult to stop comparing yourself when comparison travels in your pocket.
And it is difficult to feel finished when almost every part of life now comes with the possibility of optimisation.
One can sleep better, eat better, work better, communicate better, invest better, travel better, exercise better, network better and recover better.
Even rest has become oddly industrious.
There are podcasts about how to relax more effectively.
There are apps that measure sleep in order to tell us whether we rested correctly.
There are morning routines, evening routines and carefully engineered habits designed to make the unproductive hours more productive.
Perhaps this is why so many conversations about Gen Z begin in the wrong place.
They are often introduced as the generation with a problem with work.
But what if the more interesting question is not whether they want to work?
What if it is what they want work to leave behind?
A little time, perhaps.
A little silence.
Enough energy at the end of the day to still be a person.

This is where artificial intelligence becomes interesting, though perhaps not for the reason we usually assume.

The Quiet Fatigue of Gen Z

Much of the public conversation treats AI as though younger generations should be astonished by it. We ask how they feel about it, whether they trust it, whether it will transform their lives.
For many of them, the relationship may be far less dramatic.
AI is simply a tool.
And people do not usually build their identities around tools.
Our great-grandparents did not spend their evenings discussing their relationship with the hoe or the loom.
They used them.
They finished the work.
And then, if they were lucky, they washed, changed clothes and went somewhere else.
There might have been music in the village square.
Someone might have been waiting there.
There was gossip, dancing, flirtation, laughter and probably some behaviour that would not have impressed the elders.
The hoe mattered.
The loom mattered.
But neither was the point.
Life was the point.
There is something unexpectedly useful in that old image.
For all its sophistication, artificial intelligence may occupy a very simple place in the imagination of Gen Z.
It helps finish the work.
The more revealing question is what happens after.

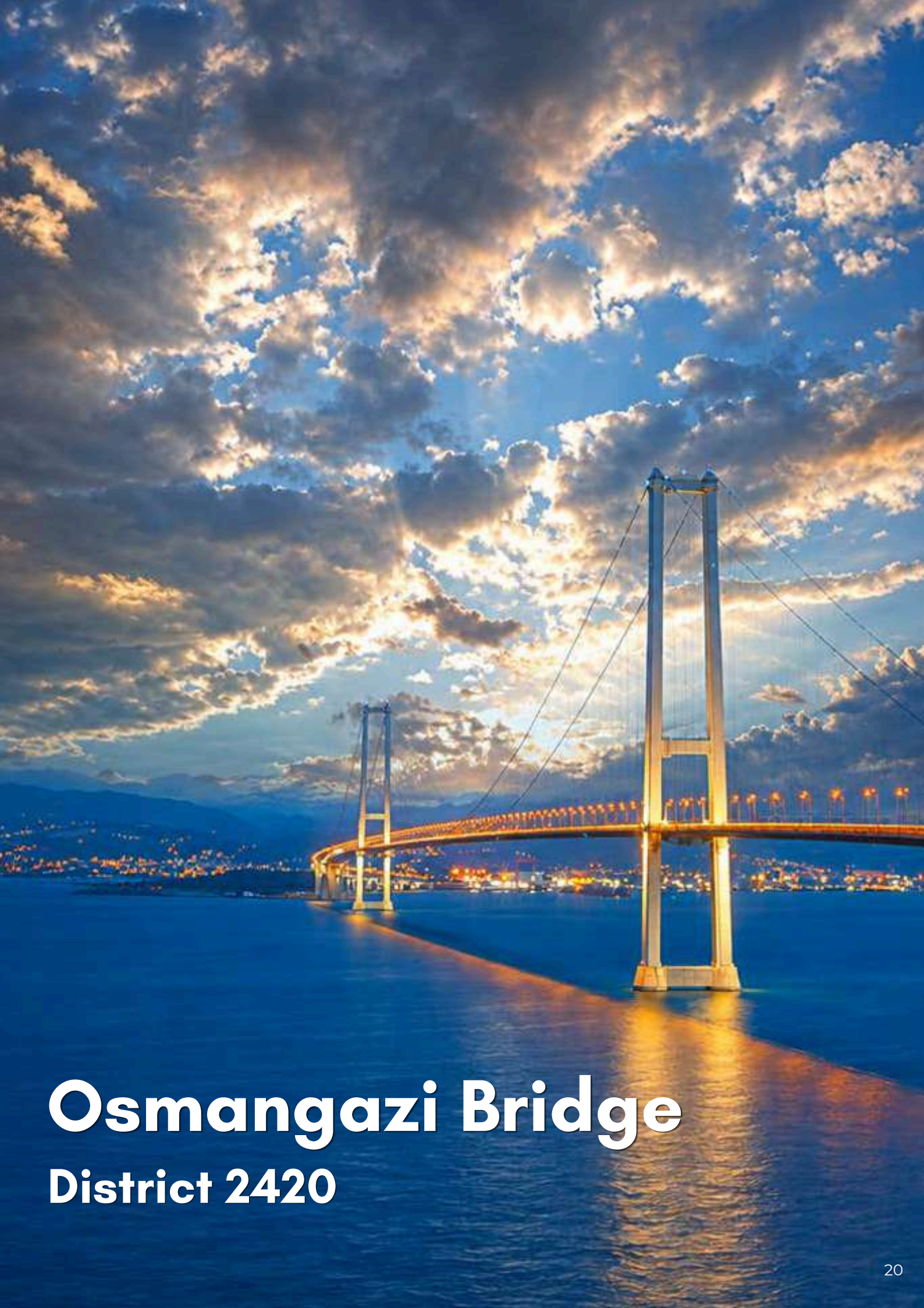
Modern life has developed a peculiar habit when technology saves time: it immediately finds another use for the time.
Email made communication faster, so we communicated more.
Smartphones made us reachable, so we became reachable almost everywhere.
Automation shortened tasks, and the reward was often another task.
Efficiency rarely produces emptiness.
It produces capacity.
And capacity, in modern working life, is quickly filled.
Perhaps Gen Z senses this bargain more clearly because they have never known a world before it.
They were born into acceleration.
They did not experience the transition from offline to online life as a historical event. It was simply the landscape.
To them, constant availability is not a new pressure. It is weather.
So when they ask for flexibility, boundaries or time outside work, it may be tempting to interpret this as a lack of ambition.
But there is another possibility.
Perhaps they are simply more conscious of proportion.
How much of a life should belong to work?
How much attention should one surrender to an employer?
How many evenings should be exchanged for advancement?
How much success is enough before one is permitted to enjoy it?
These are not rebellious questions.
They are ancient ones.
What makes them feel modern is that Gen Z asks them in a world with remarkably efficient tools and remarkably little spare attention.
This may also explain why the language of “burnout” sometimes feels insufficient.
Burnout suggests a fire that has gone out.
The quieter fatigue of Gen Z often looks different.
The fire is still there.

The Quiet Fatigue of Gen Z

They are still ambitious.
They still want careers, independence, recognition, interesting work and money.
They may simply be less convinced that exhaustion should serve as proof that any of those things matter.
And beneath all the discussions about flexibility, hybrid work, artificial intelligence and changing workplace expectations, there may be a very ordinary desire.
To finish something.
To close the laptop.
To walk outside without carrying the office in a pocket.
To meet people who are not colleagues.
To make plans that will never become content.
To spend an evening badly, inefficiently, wonderfully.
To flirt.
To dance.
To waste a little time.
There is a tendency to describe such desires as modern luxuries.
They are not.
They are very old.
The village square has changed shape, but the instinct remains.
Perhaps this is why Gen Z is so difficult to describe using the familiar vocabulary of work ethic.
They are not necessarily asking for a life with less effort.
They may be asking for a clearer answer to a simpler question:
What is the effort for?
That question does not belong only to them.
It may simply be that they are asking it early enough for the rest of us to hear it.
That question does not belong only to them.
It may simply be that they are asking it early enough for the rest of us to hear it.

Not by how much more work it allows us to do.
But by whether, once the work is done, there is still an evening left.
Somewhere, metaphorically at least, the square is waiting.

Cemre ERTAN



Osmangazi Bridge

District 2420

160 Books, 160 Young Voices

A book can tell a story. But when a child begins to question, imagine and share ideas by it, learning becomes something much greater.

On 26 October 2026, Erenköy Rotary Club, District 2420, provided 160 copies of Atatürk'ten Sana – Gençliğe Hitabe'nin İzinde to students at Sarıgazi Peyami Safa Primary School in Istanbul.
The initiative went beyond a traditional book donation.

Author Yasemin Sungur met the children for an interactive discussion and creative drama workshop exploring Atatürk's message to young people and the values of the Turkish Republic.

The students reflected on what they had read, created drawings and expressed their own ideas. Together, they produced the "Wall of the Children of the Republic," bringing their thoughts, feelings and dreams into one shared creation.

The project's value lies in turning reading into active learning — encouraging curiosity, self-expression and independent thinking.

For Erenköy Rotary Club, the 160 books represented an investment in children's educational development and confidence. The books opened the door. The children filled the experience with their own voices.



A School Full of Colour, A Rotary Family Working Together

At Sarıgazi Peyami Safa Primary School in Istanbul, colourful walls and refreshed classrooms became the visible result of a collaboration between four Rotary clubs and ten Rotaract clubs.

Working together through the Sarıgazi Community Corps initiative, established by Past President Bülent Gizer, volunteers from Sarıyer, Suadiye, Beyoğlu and Kalamış Rotary Clubs joined Rotaractors to improve the school's learning environment.

Outside, colourful murals brought new life to the garden walls. Inside, Rotaract members painted and refreshed classrooms, contributing their time, skills and energy to spaces used by children every day.

The initiative also carried a global message. Wearing red End Polio shirts, participants marked World Polio Day on 24 October and helped raise awareness of Rotary's continuing commitment to ending polio.

The project demonstrated the strength of Rotary and Rotaract working as partners, sharing responsibility and making practical improvements together.

What remained after the volunteers finished was more than fresh paint: a brighter school environment and an example of how cooperation across generations can turn a shared idea into visible community action.

Four Rotary clubs. Ten Rotaract clubs. One school. One shared purpose.











From Friendship to Action: A Rotary Bridge Between Türkiye and Bulgaria

Some Rotary partnerships begin with a shared project. Others begin with friendship — and gradually discover a purpose worth pursuing together.
On 13–14 October 2026, İzmit RC, District 2420, visited RC Momchilgrad and RC Nova Zagora in Bulgaria's D2482 to explore cooperation on a proposed Global Grant for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Kocaeli University Hospital.

The delegation included Club President Alper Terzi and Bulgaria–Türkiye ICC Chair Mehmet İsmail.

In Momchilgrad, the visiting Rotarians presented their project and invited the club to consider becoming an international partner. The following day, they shared the proposal with Rotary clubs gathered in Nova Zagora and District Governor Aleksandar Petrov.

Both meetings generated interest and encouraging discussions about possible support.

The visits also renewed friendships first established during the Çanakkale Swimming Races in August, illustrating how Rotary connections can develop into opportunities for meaningful cooperation.

The Global Grant remains a proposed initiative, with partnerships and implementation still to be developed. But an important first step has been taken: Rotarians from neighbouring countries are exploring how their friendship might help strengthen specialised care for newborn babies.

Sometimes lasting impact begins with a conversation between friends.







Happiness Map: When Reading Helps Children Find Their Voice

Sometimes a book gives children more than a story. It helps them understand their feelings and find the courage to express them.

In Istanbul, three Rotary and three Rotaract clubs from Tarabya, Sarıyer and Suadiye joined forces to create Happiness Map, inspired by a children's book written by Rotarian Neyran Yıldırım.

The initiative aims to encourage reading, emotional awareness, empathy and open communication.

Its first meeting, scheduled for 27 October 2026, was expected to bring together around 80 children.

Because education is not only about learning words. It is also about finding your own voice.



A More Equal World Through Words

A story becomes more powerful when everyone has the opportunity to experience it. Through “Sözle Daha Eşit Bir Dünya” (A More Equal World Through Words), Alkent 2000 Rotary Club in Istanbul invited volunteers to record audiobooks for people with visual impairments.
Organised in cooperation with Beylikdüzü Municipality and Boğaziçi University, the initiative scheduled recording activities for 30 September and 1 October 2026, allowing volunteers to read books aloud from home and contribute their recordings.
The project connects a love of reading with accessibility, inclusion and community participation.
Because access to literature should never depend on the ability to see its pages.



Knowledge, Friendship, and Collaboration for Peace: Rotary Peace Fellows Capstone Conference

Rotary Peace Fellows gathered at Bahçeşehir University on October 22, 2026, for the Capstone Conference, where they shared their work on peace, international solidarity, and community development.

Organized by the Otto & Fran Walter Rotary Peace Center at Bahçeşehir University, the conference brought together Rotary representatives, academics, and Peace Fellows. Opening speakers included Rotary International District 2420 Governor Erden Gökmen and Past Rotary International Director Şafak Alpay.

The program featured presentations by the fellows and a certificate ceremony for the second cohort. The Rotary Clubs of Barış, Yıldız, Beylerbeyi, Adalar, Bayrampaşa, Acarkent, Gölcük, Kadına Nefes, İstanbul, and Erenköy from Rotary International District 2420 contributed to this meaningful gathering through their support for the fellows and the ceremony.

Bringing together academic knowledge and Rotary's commitment to international service, the conference reaffirmed that peace can only be strengthened through solidarity, education, and collective effort.






Samsun
District 2430

ARPIC Ayşe Mine Ergun

Rotary club Samsun, D2430



A POWERFUL MESSAGE RISING INTO THE SKIES OF CAPPADOCIA: END POLIO NOW!

The Ankara Gazi, Yenimahalle, and Cappadocia Rotary Clubs held a joint, universal event in Cappadocia to draw attention to the global fight against polio—a cause that concerns everyone worldwide.

Set against the backdrop of Cappadocia's unique, breathtaking landscape, the event—organized through the collaboration of the three Rotary Clubs—highlighted the fight against polio with the core message: "End Polio Now."

As part of the October 24th World Polio Day observances, the program began with a city tour featuring electric vehicles, which displayed flags and magnetic signage dedicated to the fight against polio. A standout moment of the event was the flight of a hot air balloon carrying banners that read "End Polio Now." Soaring over the iconic vistas of Cappadocia, the balloon delivered a powerful message regarding the global goal to eradicate polio entirely.

Işıl Sertoğlu Sel, President of the Ankara Gazi Rotary Club; Halil Kürklü, President of the Yenimahalle Rotary Club; and Taylan Kapucu, President of the Cappadocia Rotary Club, emphasized the importance of international solidarity, vaccination efforts, and the preservation of public health in the ongoing battle against the disease.

For many years, Rotary has spearheaded international efforts to combat polio on a global scale. Through the "End Polio Now" campaign, these initiatives aim to support vaccination drives, raise public awareness, and ensure that children can grow up healthy and free from the threat of polio.

THE MESSAGE RISING FROM CAPPADOCIA IS CLEAR: IT IS POSSIBLE TO DEFEAT POLIO*

As we draw ever closer to the goal of completely eradicating polio, it is of vital importance to continue this fight with determination. After all, we are now very close to seeing the end of polio!

Through the global campaign that Rotary has spearheaded for years—providing vaccines, support, and tireless, far-reaching efforts—we are contributing to the vision of a polio-free world.

Together, it can be done; we can put an end to polio!

-Article is prepared by Halil Kürklü President Rotary club of Yenimalle 26/27



A POWERFUL MESSAGE RISING INTO THE SKIES OF CAPPADOCIA: END POLIO NOW!







Educational Materials Support for a School in the Earthquake-Affected Region

Adana Seyhan, Adana, Adana Tepebağ, Adana Güney, Adana Koza, and Adana Taşköprü Rotary Clubs carried out a joint transportation project to improve educational conditions for children in the earthquake-affected region.

Approximately 40 school desks and seats, 3 whiteboards, 2 teachers' desks, 2 armchairs, and 2 round tables, which were no longer needed by a school in Ankara, were delivered to Gözene Defne Rotary Primary and Secondary School in Samandağ, Hatay.

The six Rotary Clubs jointly covered the transportation costs, including the packing, loading, delivery, and unloading of the materials. Completed with the coordination support of Fatoş Kunt from Adana Güney Rotary Club and Halil Kürklü, President of Ankara Yenimahalle Rotary Club, the project demonstrated the strength of interclub cooperation while contributing to a better learning environment for students and teachers in the earthquake-affected region.

Rtn. Berke Akkuş
Chair, District Bulletin & Governor's Letter Committee







Ten Rotary Clubs, One Mission – Bringing End Polio Awareness to Families in Adana







Adana, Adana Seyhan, Adana Çukurova, Adana Güney, Adana Tepebağ, Adana 5 Ocak, Adana Taşköprü, Osmaniye, Anatolia, and Adana Koza Rotary Clubs jointly organized the “End Polio Now” Awareness Festival at the outdoor area of Adana M1 Shopping Mall on 18 October 2026 to raise public awareness about polio and emphasize the importance of vaccination. The event brought together children and families through entertainment and educational activities, including animators, mascots, games, competitions, digital caricature drawings, and various refreshments.

An LED screen installed at the event venue displayed informative videos about polio, prevention methods, and Rotary’s global vaccination efforts. Supporting Rotary’s worldwide fight against polio through its PolioPlus Program, launched in 1985, the project aimed to educate families, raise public awareness, and strengthen community support for the goal of a polio-free world.

Rtn. Berke Akkuş
Chair, District Bulletin & Governor’s Letter Committee

A Confident Start: Akdeniz Rotary Club Supports 115 Students

A School Bag Full of Possibilities





Akdeniz Rotary Club carried out its traditional “Welcome to School” project as part of the new academic year. Through the initiative, 115 students in need across four different schools received educational supplies, including school bags, lunch bags, water bottles, and stationery sets.

The project aimed to help students begin the new school year with their essential needs met, supporting their educational journey while highlighting the importance of equal opportunities in education.

Rtn. Berke Akkuş
Chair, District Bulletin & Governor’s Letter Committee



Where History Connects People – Rotary Clubs Explore Anatolia

Anadolu Arkeolojisi, Eskişehir Yunus Emre, and Eskişehir Yazılıkaya Rotary Clubs organized a two-day program focused on culture, art, archaeology, and fellowship in Eskişehir on 17–18 October 2026. On the first day, participants explored Eskişehir's traditional cuisine and meerschaum craftsmanship, followed by visits to the Contemporary Glass Arts Museum, Odunpazarı Modern Museum, and ETİ Archaeology Museum. The evening fellowship dinner was also attended by Past District Governor Mehmet Sabri Görkey of District 2420 and Assistant Governor Şaha Elif Ergin.

On the second day, participants visited Kümbet and Yazılıkaya in the Phrygian region, exploring rock monuments, ancient settlements, and the area's historical heritage. The joint gathering of the three Rotary Clubs helped raise awareness of Anatolia's cultural heritage while strengthening friendship and cooperation among the participating clubs.

Rtn. Berke Akkuş
Chair, District Bulletin & Governor's Letter Committee







125 Kilograms of Care – Rotary and Rotaract Together for Animal Welfare

Anatolia Rotary Club and Anatolia Rotaract Club carried out a joint project on 4 October, World Animal Day, to support the nutritional needs of animals living in shelters. As part of the initiative, 125 kilograms of pet food were donated to an animal shelter, contributing to the care and well-being of the animals.

The project, carried out through cooperation between Rotary and Rotaract Clubs, aimed to raise public awareness about animal welfare and respect for animals' right to life. The initiative highlighted the shared responsibility of protecting animals and improving their living conditions.

Rtn. Berke Akkuş
Chair, District Bulletin & Governor's Letter Committee



A Pink Ribbon, an Important Reminder: Rotary Promotes Breast Cancer Awareness

Ankara Başkent Rotary Club set up an information stand at 15 Temmuz Kızılay Millî İrade Metro Station as part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October, aiming to highlight the importance of early detection and raise public awareness.
Throughout the day, club members distributed informative brochures about breast cancer and pink ribbons, the symbol of breast cancer awareness. The event emphasized the importance of early detection and regular health screenings, contributing to greater public awareness and understanding of breast cancer

Rtn. Berke Akkuş
Chair, District Bulletin & Governor's Letter Committee





Beyond Boundaries – Festival of Musicians with Autism

Ankara Başkent Rotary Club, in cooperation with the Musa Göçmen Symphony Orchestra, organized the “Beyond Boundaries: Festival of Musicians with Autism” to showcase the musical talents of young people with autism and support their participation in professional artistic life. During the festival, young musicians performed alongside the professional symphony orchestra conducted by Musa Göçmen.

Held at the Musa Göçmen Symphony Orchestra Concert Hall, the festival featured piano, drums, accordion, qanun, and vocal performances, with a repertoire ranging from classical music to rock. Following more than a year of preparation, the festival provided a meaningful platform for musicians with autism to showcase their talents, pursue opportunities in the professional music industry, and promote equal opportunities in the arts.

Rtn. Berke Akkuş
Chair, District Bulletin & Governor’s Letter Committee







Ankara Kent Rotary Club - World Polio Day

Ankara Kent Rotary Club set up an information stand on 24 October, World Polio Day, to raise awareness about the fight against polio and emphasize the importance of vaccination. With the participation of healthcare specialists, families received information about polio and the protective role of vaccines, while educational brochures were distributed.





The event attracted strong interest from the public and Rotarians, highlighting Rotary's global efforts through its "End Polio Now" campaign. The initiative contributed to raising public awareness about the importance of vaccination and supporting the global goal of a polio-free world.

Rtn. Berke Akkuş
Chair, District Bulletin & Governor's Letter Committee



Antalya and Antalya Olimpos Rotary Clubs - bowling tournament at For Fun Bowling for Polio Day

Antalya and Antalya Olimpos Rotary Clubs organized a bowling tournament at For Fun Bowling on 23 October 2026 to mark World Polio Day on 24 October. The event brought together 116 Rotarians and guests, raising awareness about the fight against polio while highlighting friendship and solidarity.

Supported by other Rotary Clubs in Antalya, the tournament united Rotarians and guests from different clubs around a shared purpose. The event contributed to raising awareness of Rotary's "End Polio Now" campaign while strengthening friendship and fellowship among the participating clubs.

Rtn. Berke Akkuş
Chair, District Bulletin & Governor's Letter Committee







Steps to Health with Love

Antalya, Antalya Perge, Antalya Olimpos, Diyarbakır, and Beyoğlu Rotary Clubs carried out foot health screenings for individuals with special needs at Elanur Special Education Center on 3 October 2026, as part of the “Steps to Health with Love” project, now in its fifth year. With contributions from Diyarbakır Rotary Club and support from Two Podoloji, foot assessments were conducted to identify participants’ individual needs.

Aiming to support the foot health of individuals with special needs, the project will continue providing foot care and follow-up services based on identified needs until 1 July 2027. Carried out through cooperation among Rotary Clubs, specialists, and volunteers, the initiative seeks to improve access to preventive healthcare services and enhance the quality of life of individuals with special needs.

Rtn. Berke Akkuş
Chair, District Bulletin & Governor’s Letter Committee









Bilecik Rotary Club and World Animal Day

Bilecik Rotary Club visited an animal shelter on 4 October, World Animal Day, and donated pet food and essential supplies. Funded by the proceeds from a previously organized Quiz Night event, the donation helped meet the basic needs of animals living at the shelter.

During the visit, club members spent time with the animals, showing them care and affection. Combining entertainment with social responsibility, the project raised awareness about animal welfare and demonstrated how solidarity can be transformed into meaningful support.

Rtn. Berke Akkuş
Chair, District Bulletin & Governor's Letter Committee









Bilecik Rotary Club raised awareness about the fight against polio

Bilecik Rotary Club organized a series of activities combining environmental cleanup and public education to raise awareness about the fight against polio. During the first event, participants took part in an environmental cleanup while receiving information about polio, its causes, prevention methods, and Rotary's contributions to global eradication efforts.

The activities continued with the "Walking Tales" event, where children were introduced to Rotary's "End Polio Now" campaign through age-appropriate storytelling. By engaging different age groups, the initiative aimed to increase public awareness about polio and the importance of its eradication.

Rtn. Berke Akkuş
Chair, District Bulletin & Governor's Letter Committee







6th Traditional Parent-Child Camp

Bolu Rotary Club organized its 6th Traditional Parent-Child Camp at Mudurnu Anakamp on 10–11 October 2026, bringing families and children together for two enjoyable days surrounded by nature. The camp featured icebreaker games, competitions, horseback riding, boat rides on the lake, ceramic workshops, and campfire gatherings, strengthening friendships among participants.

A tree-planting activity encouraged children to develop environmental awareness and a love for nature, while the “Camp Charity Sale” highlighted the importance of helping others and sharing. The annual camp strengthened bonds among families while contributing to children’s social development and fostering a spirit of solidarity.

Rtn. Berke Akkuş
Chair, District Bulletin & Governor’s Letter Committee









Bolu Rotary Club – World Polio Day

Bolu Rotary Club organized an awareness and information event at Abant İzzet Baysal University Hospital's Pediatric Outpatient Clinic to mark World Polio Day on 24 October. During the event, colorful balloons were distributed to children, while families received information about polio, the importance of vaccination, and methods of preventing the disease.



The event highlighted Rotary's "End Polio Now" campaign, which has been ongoing since 1985, and emphasized every child's right to a healthy future. The project contributed to raising public awareness and strengthening support for the global goal of eradicating polio.



Rtn. Berke Akkuş
Chair, District Bulletin & Governor's Letter Committee



World Animal Day activities.

Eskişehir Yazılıkaya Rotary Club donated 105 kilograms of pet food to the Tepebaşı Municipality Natural Life Center on 3 October 2026, as part of World Animal Day activities. Supported by contributions from club members, the project helped meet the nutritional needs of stray animals receiving care and treatment at the center.

The donation supported the well-being of animals at the center, which provides veterinary treatment, rehabilitation, and adoption services for stray animals. Made possible through the contributions of club members Alev Özdemir, Volkan Demir, Serap Zerrin Çolpan, Nuray Çamursoy, and Şaha Elif Ergin, the initiative highlighted the importance of animal welfare and community awareness on World Animal Day.

Rtn. Berke Akkuş
Chair, District Bulletin & Governor's Letter Committee



Dyslexia Awareness Week

Kastamonu 10 Aralık Rotary Club organized an awareness conference on 7 October 2026 as part of Dyslexia Awareness Week, held from 5–11 October. The conference focused on dyslexia and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), bringing together educators, parents, and interested participants with Melek Çelik Aktaş, an expert in the field.

The conference aimed to raise awareness about dyslexia and ADHD, promote a better understanding of the challenges children may face during their education, and provide valuable information to families and educators. The event contributed to increasing public awareness and understanding of learning differences.

Rtn. Berke Akkuş
Chair, District Bulletin & Governor's Letter Committee







Seed Ball Project

Kayseri Rotary Club carried out its Seed Ball Project on 11 October 2026 to contribute to environmental conservation and support the creation of micro-forests. The event brought together members of Kayseri Rotaract, Interact, and Rotakids Clubs, along with prospective members and their families. Participants from different generations worked together to prepare and distribute seed balls in nature.

Aiming to promote environmental awareness among children and young people, the project also strengthened friendship and solidarity within the Rotary family. Supported by Assistant Governor Ferudun Erbay, responsible for Environmental Protection and Support Projects, and District Climate and Environmental Awareness Committee Chair Fatih Kaya, the initiative encouraged a shared sense of responsibility for protecting nature.

Rtn. Berke Akkuş
Chair, District Bulletin & Governor's Letter Committee







Malatya Rotary Club and POLIO awareness

Malatya Rotary Club set up an information stand at Malatya Park Shopping Mall on 24 October, World Polio Day, to raise awareness about polio and emphasize the importance of vaccination. Visitors received information about the disease, prevention methods, and the role of The Rotary Foundation in global polio eradication efforts.

The event brought together children and families through colorful balloons and informative conversations. The initiative highlighted Rotary's "End Polio Now" campaign while aiming to increase public awareness about the importance of vaccination and the global fight against polio.

Rtn. Berke Akkuş
Chair, District Bulletin & Governor's Letter Committee







Polio Awareness Event

Mersin Kızkalesi Rotary, Interact, and RotaKids Clubs jointly organized a polio awareness event at Mersin Palmcity Shopping Mall on 24 October, World Polio Day. During the event, informative brochures were distributed to visitors to raise awareness about polio and emphasize the importance of vaccination.

Children participated in the event by creating handprints on canvases and a specially prepared poster, while balloons featuring the message “End Polio Now” helped spread awareness to a wider audience. Bringing together members of the Rotary family from different generations, the initiative highlighted Rotary’s global “End Polio Now” campaign and aimed to strengthen public awareness of the goal of eradicating polio worldwide.

Rtn. Berke Akkuş
Chair, District Bulletin & Governor’s Letter Committee







A meaningful event

Ünye Rotary Club organized a meaningful event at Ünye Pier during Breast Cancer Awareness Month to celebrate the recovery of Yasemin Tekler Günaydın, who successfully overcame breast cancer. Supported by the Ünye Chamber of Tailors and Hairdressers and the Ünye Choirs Association, the event brought together representatives of civil society organizations, Günaydın's family and friends, and many local residents.

Günaydın's recovery following a year of intensive treatment was celebrated with pink balloons released into the sky. The event emphasized the importance of early detection and regular health screenings, aiming to raise public awareness about breast cancer.

Rtn. Berke Akkuş
Chair, District Bulletin & Governor's Letter Committee



Recycling of electronic waste

Yenimahalle Rotary Club carried out an initiative on 14 October, International E-Waste Day, to support the environmentally responsible recycling of electronic waste. Electronic waste collected by club members was delivered to the Çankaya Municipality Directorate of Climate Change and Zero Waste.

The project highlighted the importance of proper electronic waste collection and recycling while aiming to raise awareness about environmental protection, efficient use of resources, and sustainable living.

Rtn. Berke Akkuş
Chair, District Bulletin & Governor's Letter Committee









Ölüdeniz, Fethiye

District 2440

Ömer BAŞBUĞ, Zone 21 B Public Image Team

Rotary club Bodrum, D2440



Republic Concert in İzmir: 103 Years of the Republic Celebrated with Music and Solidarity

The Republic Concert, organised by the Rotary Club of İzmir, a member of the Rotary District 2440 Federation, with the support of İzmir Metropolitan Municipality and Rotary District 2440, drew a large audience. On a night when Olten Band took the stage and the 103-year legacy of the Republic was celebrated through music and solidarity, Rotary Club of İzmir President Ozan Karakaya stressed the importance of passing the values of the Republic on to future generations.
The Republic's journey of enlightenment met the universal language of music in İzmir. Held at the Ahmed Adnan Saygun Arts Centre as part of the 29 October Republic Day celebrations, the Republic Concert attracted a large crowd of music lovers. Organised by the Rotary Club of İzmir, the evening featured a performance by Olten Band that matched the enthusiasm of the celebrations. Attended by representatives of the Aegean Contemporary Education Foundation (EÇEV), the Turkish Education Foundation (TEV) and the Eğitim-İş teachers' union, the night gained special meaning by sharing the Republic's forward-looking legacy with the younger generation.











Republic Concert in İzmir: 103 Years of the Republic Celebrated with Music and Solidarity

"THE REPUBLIC IS THE STRONGEST LEGACY OF OUR FAITH IN THE FUTURE"
Speaking on the significance of Republic Day, Rotary Club of İzmir President Ozan Karakaya pointed out that the Republic is not only a historic achievement but also a shared responsibility we carry towards the future. Emphasising the importance of keeping the values of the Republic alive and handing them down to future generations, Karakaya described art as a powerful means of bringing these values to the public. Underlining the importance of upholding the Republic's ideals of enlightenment, modernity and a shared future, he expressed his pleasure at sharing the same enthusiasm with music lovers on this meaningful evening. Held in the Republic's 103rd year, the concert also showed that the legacy inherited from the past can be kept alive not only through remembrance but through culture, art and solidarity.

SOLIDARITY GROWING AROUND ART
The Rotary Club of İzmir thanked the Olten Art Foundation, Dinç Group, Freelance Group and the Yorgancılar family for their support of the event and presented them with plaques of appreciation.

Crowned by Olten Band's performance, the Republic Concert brought the festive spirit of the holiday to İzmir through music, while reminding everyone that upholding the values of the Republic is a shared responsibility. The evening will be remembered as a meaningful gathering that carried the Republic's 103 years of heritage into the future through the unifying power of art.













Ömer BAŞBUĞ, Zone 21 B Public Image Team

Rotary Friendship Across Borders District 5020 Canada & District 2440 Türkiye Friendship Exchange (1/4)

One of Rotary's greatest strengths is its ability to bring people from different parts of the world together around shared values, build bridges between cultures, and create lasting friendships. A wonderful example of this spirit was experienced through the Rotary Friendship Exchange between District 5020 Canada and District 2440 Türkiye. Our Rotarian friends from Vancouver Island, Canada, visited Türkiye from October 18 to 30, 2026.

Throughout a program covering Çanakkale, Bursa, Balıkesir, and İzmir, they not only discovered the historical and cultural treasures of our country but also had the opportunity to learn about the projects of our Rotary clubs, visit Rotary Community Corps initiatives, and experience everyday life with Turkish Rotarian host families.

First Stop: Çanakkale

The Friendship Exchange began on October 18 with the warm hospitality of the Rotary Club of Çanakkale. Staying in the homes of local Rotarian families gave our Canadian guests the opportunity to experience genuine cultural exchange and Turkish hospitality.

During their stay, they explored Çanakkale city center, Çimenlik Castle, and Aynalı Çarşı, followed by a visit to the Gallipoli Historical Site. Visits to the ancient city and museum of Troy and the ancient city of Assos offered another fascinating perspective on the thousands of years of history that have shaped Anatolia.

Club meetings, shared meals, and time spent with host families helped build strong friendships from the very first days of the exchange. We extend our sincere thanks to the members of the Rotary Club of Çanakkale for their warm welcome and wonderful hospitality.









Rotary Friendship Across Borders District 5020 Canada & District 2440 Türkiye Friendship Exchange (2/4)

Rotary, Service and Friendship in Bursa
The second stop of the program was Bursa, where our Canadian Rotarians spent four days hosted by the Demirtaş, Gökdere, and Uludağ Rotary Clubs.

One of the highlights was the Friendship and Club Banner Exchange Meeting, which brought together Rotarians from several clubs. As club banners were exchanged, members also shared their projects, experiences, and ideas, creating a memorable evening that truly reflected the international spirit of Rotary.

Community service was also an important part of the Bursa program. Our guests had the opportunity to observe the work of students receiving special education through a Rotary Community Corps initiative of the Gökdere Rotary Club.

Together with the Demirtaş Interact Club, they also met with young people and participated in Polio Day activities, learning more about Rotary's commitment to eradicating polio and the work being carried out in our district.
The program also introduced our guests to Bursa's rich history and culture through visits to Koza Han, the Grand Mosque, and İznik.









Rotary Friendship Across Borders District 5020 Canada & District 2440 Türkiye Friendship Exchange (3/4)

From Balıkesir to İzmir

On October 26, as the exchange entered its final stage, our Canadian friends were welcomed by the RC of Balıkesir. During a visit to one of the club's community initiatives, they observed the education and activities provided for students with autism and learned about the projects being carried out there.

The group then continued to İzmir, where the final days once again brought together culture, service, and Rotary fellowship.

After exploring Kemeraltı and the historic heart of İzmir, our guests were welcomed at the Republic Day Concert organized by the RC of İzmir, sharing the joy of the 103rd anniversary of the Republic of Türkiye with fellow Rotarians.

During the Urla program, the Toprak Ana RC welcomed the group at the Köstem Olive Oil Museum. Projects focusing on olive trees, vineyards, and mastic trees were presented, giving our guests an opportunity to learn about the agricultural heritage of the region and initiatives aimed at protecting and sustaining these valuable local resources.

Friendship and Club Banner Exchange in İzmir

One of the most meaningful gatherings of the İzmir program was the Friendship and Club Banner Exchange Meeting, hosted by the Bostanlı, Dokuz Eylül, and Konak Rotary Clubs.

The evening brought together Canadian Rotarians and members of District 2440. More than club banners were exchanged: participants shared projects, experiences, ideas, and possibilities for future cooperation.

We would also like to thank the members of the 100. Yıl Güzelbahçe Rotary Club and District 2440 E-Rotary Club, who opened their homes to our Canadian guests and became an essential part of this international friendship. The participation of the President of the Dokuz Eylül Rotaract Club added another special dimension to the evening, highlighting the connection between generations within the Rotary family.

The İzmir program concluded with visits to the ancient city of Ephesus, the House of the Virgin Mary, the Church of St. John, and the Selçuk Museum.







Rotary Friendship Across Borders District 5020 Canada & District 2440 Türkiye Friendship Exchange (4/4)

Much More Than an Exchange Program
This nearly two-week journey became much more than a travel program. It was a true experience of Rotary's core values of friendship, service, intercultural understanding, and international cooperation.

While our Canadian friends discovered the history and culture of our region, they also had the opportunity to see firsthand the community service projects carried out by our clubs. At the same time, we were once again reminded of how easily Rotarians from different countries can connect when they share the same values and commitment to service.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Çanakkale, Balıkesir, Demirtaş, Gökdere, Uludağ, İzmir, Toprak Ana, Bostanlı, Dokuz Eylül, Konak, 100. Yıl Güzelbahçe, and District 2440 E-Rotary Clubs, to all the Rotarian families who opened their homes to our guests, and to every Rotary and Rotaract member who contributed to making this program possible.

As our friends from District 5020 Canada returned home, they left behind not only wonderful memories but also strong Rotary friendships that we believe will continue to grow for many years to come.

Pınar Aksoy
District 2440 Rotary Friendship Exchange Committee Chair









Health, Education and Republic Day Spirit in Kıranışıklar

The Rotary Club of Osmangazi brought its health and education work to the people of Kıranışıklar, the village where the club runs a Rotary Community Corps. At the village school, which was repainted in September with the club's support, Dr İlhan Aydın, a surgeon, gave an awareness talk on breast cancer and offered breast examinations to women who requested them. As part of the visit, the club also donated books and stationery to the school.

The children who took part in a Republic-themed drawing competition received their prizes on 29 October, Republic Day. The competition, in which the children expressed their dreams and their love for the Republic through colour, became part of the holiday celebrations.

Working under the motto "Create Lasting Impact", the Rotary Club of Osmangazi continues to strengthen its ties with the village by keeping alive the friendships built in previous Rotary years.











From a Summer Camp to a Brighter Future: Children in Hisarönü Learn, Create and Dream

A year from now, some children in Hisarönü may remember this summer as the time they discovered a new interest. In three years, one of them may write a first story, find the confidence to speak in front of others or lead a community activity. Ten years from now, the experiences shared at this camp may have grown into confidence, curiosity and a desire to contribute to their community.

This is the kind of long-term impact that Rotary Club Marmaris, District 2440, Türkiye, is helping to create through a free children's summer camp in Hisarönü. The project is being delivered in partnership with Tazelenme University – Marmaris Campus and the Hisarönü Village Headman's Office, which also serves as a Rotary Community Corps.

From 10 to 21 August, primary school children are being given the opportunity to learn, create and build friendships in a safe and supportive environment. The programme includes general knowledge, logic games, handicrafts, photography, health and nutrition, caring for pets and physical activities.





From a Summer Camp to a Brighter Future: Children in Hisarönü Learn, Create and Dream

The value of the camp lies not only in the subjects being taught, but also in the way children are encouraged to explore them. They talk about books and poetry, begin writing their own poems and stories, take part in creative drama and discover science through engaging experiments. Outdoor activities help them build trust, connect with one another and experience the importance of belonging.

Rotary Club Marmaris demonstrates how a club can recognise a local need and respond with consistency, imagination and genuine human connection. Its work reminds us that lasting impact does not always begin with a large-scale project. Sometimes it starts with a few tables, a ball, a curious question and adults who believe that every child deserves the opportunity to discover their potential.










Armenia
Bahrain
Cyprus
Georgia
Jordan
UAE
Lebanon
Palestine
Sudan
Georgia
District 2452

ARPIC Faisal Juma

Rotary club Salmaniya, D2452



District 2452 - Lebanon: Every heart deserves a chance to beat strong! 🩸❤️

Rotary Metn Gate joined P. Lina Shehayeb, the Gift of Life Lebanon team, and visiting President Abd Moudawar (Rotary Hillsborough NJ, USA) for a memorable evening honoring a life-saving mission.
Thanks to pediatric cardiac surgeries and strong international Rotary partnerships, over 60 children have been given the gift of life! We are beyond proud to stand together for every little heart. 🙏✨
Gift of Life Lebanon





District 2452 - Lebanon: Coming together to support children

To mark Rotary's September monthly theme: Basic Education & Literacy Rotary Beirut Cadmos, in collaboration with the Ras El Nabeh Initiative, came together to support children as they begin a new school year.
Exercise books, calculators, pencils and other essential school supplies were donated- the everyday tools every child needs to learn, grow and succeed.
Small essentials can make a big difference.











DIstrict 2452 - Cyprus: Successful campaign buy mobile unit

An ambitious fundraising initiative, two years of dedication and the generosity of remarkable supporters have culminated in the successful completion of Care4Rare, a landmark Rotary Club of Nicosia project for the Karaiskakio Foundation.

On 23 September, we were proud to celebrate this achievement at the Karaiskakio Foundation's Donor Appreciation Event, marking the culmination of an initiative that began in 2024–2025 with an ambitious objective: to raise €50,000 towards providing the Foundation with a specially equipped mobile unit.

Care4Rare was conceived and initiated by our Past President Theodora Vassiliou, whose dedication and determination were instrumental in mobilising the support needed to transform this vision into reality.

The delivery of the vehicle in 2026 represents a tangible and lasting contribution to the Foundation and its invaluable work supporting patients and families affected by rare diseases.

At the heart of the project's success was the exceptional support of our principal contributors.

Special recognition goes to fellow Rotarian Dickran Ouzounian and Dickran Ouzounian and Company Limited / Toyota Cyprus, whose exceptional generosity, personal involvement and instrumental contribution towards securing the vehicle played a pivotal role in making Care4Rare possible.







DIstrict 2452 - Cyprus: Successful campaign buy mobile unit

Our profound appreciation also goes to fellow Rotarian George Petrou of Staroil Cyprus and EKO Cyprus, whose substantial support and generosity contributed significantly to the realisation of the project.

We also gratefully acknowledge Past President Theodora Vassiliou, Past President Michalis Prodromou / A.Prodromou & Co. Ltd, Deloitte, ΟΕΛΜΕΚ, Κυπριακος Οργανισμος Αθλητισμου (ΚΟΑ) and the Deputy Ministry of Culture for their generous support and contribution.

Care4Rare is a truly collective achievement and a powerful example of what can be accomplished when Rotary, businesses, institutions and individuals unite behind a shared humanitarian purpose.

This was more than an achievement, it is a continued support for patients affected by rare diseases.

Stephanie Georgiadou, President 2026-2027
Rotary Club of Nicosia





District 2452 - Lebanon: the importance of giving back

Beyt Al Yateem Orphanage reminds us of the importance of giving back to our community. A truly memorable day where culture, friendship, and service come together in the spirit of togetherness.

Guests enjoyed an authentic Lebanese lunch, alongside activities







District 2452 - Lebanon: Rotary Club of Akkar distributed school supplies to students at Ain Yaacoub Public School

As part of Rotary's Area of Focus, Basic Education and Literacy, the Rotary Club of Akkar distributed school supplies to students at Ain Yaacoub Public School, from kindergarten through Grade 9, in the presence of the Club President and several club members.
We believe that supporting education can begin with the simplest things. Providing students with essential school supplies is a meaningful way to help them learn, participate, and continue their educational journey with confidence and joy.

Our sincere thanks to the school principal, Ms. Hanaa Kanaan, for her warm cooperation and welcome, and to everyone who contributed to making this initiative possible.
At the Rotary Club of Akkar, we don't simply serve our community; we strive to leave an impact that lasts.

Together, towards better education... and a lasting impact.













District 2452 - Lebanon : Protective steel window grilles were installed at the a Public School

Protective steel window grilles were installed at the May II Public School in Tripoli, in a project funded by the Rotary Club of Tripoli and donors through the “Unite for Lebanon” platform.













District 2452 - Cyprus: No Child Without School Supplies 2026

Together, we can make a difference and create lasting impact! We are delighted to share the successful completion of the 4th consecutive "No Child Without School Supplies 2026" initiative by the Rotary Club of Kyrenia. A big thank you to everyone who contributed to this effort, demonstrating through action that giving and collaboration can create a positive impact on our society.









District 2452 - Cyprus: Successful Charity Music Evening

Congratulations to the Rotary Club of Limassol Kourion on a successful charity music evening! 🎶
The event brought together music, friendship and a meaningful cause. All net proceeds will be donated to the “Little Heroes” Foundation (Mikroi Iroes).
Well done to the club and everyone who supported this initiative!









District 2452 - Lebanon: A Healthy Smile Should Never be out of Reach

For many people, access to dental care is not always easy. Yet taking care of our teeth is an essential part of our health, comfort, and confidence.
Through Sourire en Service, Rotary Club of Beirut Cedars, in collaboration with Anciens Scouts Champville is helping people gain access to the dental care they need. 🩺🤝
The initiative also carries a deeply personal meaning, honoring the memory of the late Dr. Pierre Lahoud, a dentist whose memory lives on through this effort to care for others. 🕊️💙
Suggested and managed by Rotarian Charbel Abou Chebel, this project brings together people who believe that healthcare deserves attention, compassion, and practical action.
Because behind every smile is a person who deserves to be cared for.









District 2452 - UAE: 70 children. 70 shopping vouchers— countless smiles

Our Back-to-School Shopping Day at Centerpoint, Festival City, was a wonderful success, bringing children, Rotarians, and volunteers together for a day of choice, encouragement, and joy. The Rotary Club of Dubai Cosmopolitan initiated and organised the initiative, in collaboration with the Association of Rotary Clubs UAE, Rotary Clubs across the UAE, and Al Etihad Charity Foundation, which supported 70 children with vouchers to choose their own school essentials.

From finding the right shoes to picking a favourite backpack, those everyday choices became special moments. Our volunteers were there to lend a hand, share a laugh, and make each child feel welcomed and supported. A heartfelt thank you to the Association, every participating Rotary club, Al Etihad Charity Foundation, and all the volunteers who gave their time and care to make this day possible.

Together, we provided more than school essentials; we helped create confidence, happiness, and a sense of belonging. This is Service Above Self in action.











District 2452 - Lebanon: Supporting Special Education at Beit El Yateem

Rotary Club of Beirut Liberty is proud to support the Special Education Program at Beit El Yateem – Abey. Through the Club's continued commitment and significant financial support, children are benefiting from specialized educational, psychological, and behavioral care tailored to their individual needs.

During our recent visit, we had the opportunity to see the program in action, meet the students and educators, and witness firsthand the dedication behind this meaningful initiative. Our sincere appreciation to the Beit El Yateem Administration and team, and to our Rotary Club of Beirut Liberty members whose commitment makes this support possible.

By investing in these children, we are investing in their future, strengthening their families, and contributing to a more inclusive society.











District 2452 - Rotary Club Beirut Liberty Honored by the Lebanese Army

During our club meeting on September 30, we were honored to welcome Colonel Abbas Zahri, representing the Lebanese Army, who presented our club with an official letter of appreciation from Army Commander General Rodolphe Haykal, in recognition of our donation, in collaboration with AGBU, of two vital signs monitors with portable stands to the Army's medical facility in Tyre.

Colonel Zahri warmly acknowledged the genuine love, respect, and solidarity shown by our members toward the Lebanese Army.

This recognition was a proud moment for our club, reflecting our strong bond of mutual respect and cooperation with the Lebanese Army. Our heartfelt gratitude to its leadership and personnel for their dedication, sacrifices, and unwavering service to our country.









District 2452 : A Remarkable Milestone in Rotary District 2452 Philanthropy!

Heartfelt congratulations to Rotarian P.P Yaseen Jaffer on achieving the prestigious Arch Klumph Society – Trustees Circle, one of The Rotary Foundation's highest levels of recognition for extraordinary generosity and philanthropic commitment.

His dedication to service and generosity is a true inspiration, reflecting Rotary's spirit of Service Above Self.

Congratulations on this exceptional achievement and your lasting commitment to doing good in the world!









District 2452 - Cyprus: Saving lives and protecting health are at the heart of Rotary's mission!

A nice initiative by Rotary Club of Kyrenia Liman and Rotary Club of Kyrenia Cosmopolitan, bringing attention to the importance of first aid, emergency preparedness and lifesaving skills.

It is especially inspiring to see two Rotary clubs working together, strengthening friendship, cooperation and the spirit of Rotary service.

Congratulations to both clubs on this valuable initiative! Together, we make a difference!











District 2452 - Jordan: Give Light to Others... Give the Gift of Sight!

On October 12, 2026, the “Give Light to Others” awareness campaign was launched at Princess Basma Teaching Hospital in Irbid, Jordan, as part of the Fighting Blindness in Jordan Project (2025–2027).

Organized by the Friends of the Jordan Eye Bank Association, in cooperation with the Rotary Club of Amman Ammon and in partnership with the Jordan Eye Bank, the campaign aims to raise awareness about corneal diseases, early diagnosis, and the life-changing power of corneal donation.

One donation can change lives!

Through specialized equipment provided by the project, one donated cornea may help restore sight to more than one patient in medically suitable cases, bringing new hope to those awaiting transplantation.

This impactful initiative is supported by the Rotary Club of Heidenheim, Germany, and The Rotary Foundation, demonstrating the power of international Rotary partnerships in creating sustainable change.

Together, we can raise awareness, encourage corneal donation, and help more people see a brighter future.

Because the gift of sight is the gift of hope.









District 2452 - Cyprus: COMING TOGETHER IN THE SPIRIT OF FELLOWSHİP SOLIDARITY AND SERVICE

On Saturday, 10 October, the Rotary Club of Kyrenia Liman and the Rotary Club of Kyrenia Cosmopolitan jointly organised an event at the Civil Defence Organisation's facilities in Alsancak. The event took place in a warm and joyful atmosphere, filled with friendship, fellowship and solidarity.

The primary aim of our event was to raise support for the Özcan Bundak Aviation and Electronics Center Memorial Fund, established to help create the Özcan Bundak Aviation and Electronics Center at Sedat Simavi Vocational High School. We also aimed to make a donation to Rotary International's End Polio Now initiative, which works towards eradicating polio worldwide.

The Civil Defence Organisation generously allocated its Alsancak facilities for our use for an entire day, providing us food, beverages with access to the facilities and resources we needed. This valuable contribution played a significant role in supporting our objectives.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciation to the Civil Defence Organisation for its invaluable support and for its commitment to community solidarity, cooperation and initiatives that make a positive difference in people's lives.









District 2452 - Lebanon: Caritas Lebanon Emergency Communication Project Handover

On October 2, the official handover of the Emergency Communication Equipment Project, including 20 long-range walkie-talkies and 2 Thuraya phones, to Caritas Lebanon took place.

Led by Rotary Club Beirut Cedars, in partnership with Rotary Club Beirut Liberty and other Rotary clubs, this project will strengthen Caritas Lebanon's emergency response capacity through faster communication, better coordination, and more effective assistance to communities in need.

A meaningful achievement made possible through teamwork and collaboration. Congratulations and heartfelt thanks to all partners and supporters who made it possible.





District 2452 - Bahrain: Together We Win – Breast Cancer Awareness Month

The Rotary Club of Salmaniya was proud to participate in the fourth annual Breast Cancer Awareness event organized by the Northern Governorate, in collaboration with King Hamad University Hospital, the American Mission Hospital, and community partners.

We were honored to support this vital initiative to raise awareness about breast cancer and stand together in championing early detection, prevention, and women's health. The impactful event featured medical experts who highlighted the life-saving importance of regular screenings, as well as an inspiring breast cancer survivor who shared her powerful journey of courage, resilience, and recovery. The initiative concluded with the recognition of key partners and contributors for their ongoing commitment to promoting health awareness and community well-being.

Early Detection Saves Lives! Together, we can make a difference!









District 2452 - Lebanon: Successful second phase of life changing surgery

The second phase of Global Grant #2573748, dedicated to cleft lip and palate surgery and organized by the Rotary Club de Beyrouth, was successfully carried out on Friday, October 16.

Dr. Usama Hamdan, President of the Global Smile Foundation, travelled to Lebanon to perform surgical procedures for approximately twenty children at the Bekhazi Medical Center. Deep appreciation is extended to the institution and its President, Rotarian Rima Bekhazi Azar, for their generous support and dedicated collaboration on this vital project, which was originally launched in 2024.







District 2452 - Lebanon: Kayaking for a Polio-Free World

Rotary Metn Gate proudly took part in the wonderful international event organized by the Rotary Club Tunis Notre Dame in Zaghouan on October 14, 2026, represented by our Past President Lara Ahmadieh as six nationalities united for the "United in Kayak for a Polio-Free World" initiative. Bound by friendship and a shared commitment, our mobilization will continue until this disease is completely eradicated.











District 2452 - Lebanon: Global Grant "A Smile for Lebanon" - Year 3

For the third consecutive year, we are glad to kickstart our ongoing dental project, in partnership with Rotary Genève International and Rotary clubs/districts in Switzerland, and in collaboration with the Faculty of Dentistry of Saint Joseph University Usj - Fmd in Lebanon.

During our last dental checkups at “Dar Al Yatima” orphanage in Tripoli, our volunteering dentists from USJ, along with our member Dr. Rania Azar, documented the cases of 16 orphans with severe dental issues. These orphans were transported to the faculty of Dentistry at USJ where they received advanced dental treatment.
At the end of the sessions, the orphans were each offered thoughtful gifts & toothbrushes to maintain their healthy dental habits.

We would like to give special thanks to our dedicated Swiss Rotarian partners, especially Hansjoerg Eberle, and Saint Joseph University’s dental team who showed great professionalism and kindness, creating a friendly environment where the children felt comfortable and at ease.

Together, we're spreading smiles and building a healthier future for Lebanon's deprived children.











District 2452 - Lebanon: "Healthy Eyes, Big Dreams

A Community Health Initiative Bringing Together the Rotary Club of Zahle-Bekaa, Miss Bekaa, and Asdaa Magazine

With a shared commitment to children's eye health and education, the Rotary Club of Zahle-Bekaa, Miss Bekaa 2026, and Asdaa Zahle and Bekaa magazine launched "Healthy Eyes, Big Dreams," a campaign dedicated to detecting vision problems early and providing prescription glasses to students who need them.

The campaign began today at Saints-Cœurs – Saint Joseph Al-Sakhra School in Maalaka, where students received vision screenings in collaboration with Optique Chaanine. Prescription glasses were provided to all students whose screenings identified a need, helping them concentrate, learn, and pursue their studies under better conditions.







District 2452 - Lebanon: "Healthy Eyes, Big Dreams

A Community Health Initiative Bringing Together the Rotary Club of Zahle-Bekaa, Miss Bekaa, and Asdaa Magazine
The initiative brought together the school's Mother Superior, Sister Raymonde Geagea; Rotary Club of Zahle-Bekaa President Dr. Badih Hajj Chahine and fellow club members; journalist Nicole Sadaka, General Director of Asdaa Zahle and Bekaa magazine; Miss Bekaa 2026, Lama Nozha; and Dr. Rita Atallah, President of the school's Parents' Association.

This initiative highlights the value of collaboration among schools, service organizations, and media partners in serving the community. It reflects a shared belief that healthcare is a fundamental right for every child, and that early detection and access to prescription glasses can make a meaningful difference in students' education and future success.

This first stop marks the beginning of a campaign committed to helping children learn with confidence—because healthy eyes do more than help them see the world clearly; they open new horizons for achieving their dreams.





District 2452 -Lebanon: 1 million books Campaign

As part of the 1 million book campaign, the Rotary Club Beirut Cadmos and Rotaract Club AUB donated 350 books from our personal libraries. Those books are going to the libraries that were damaged during the Israeli shelling over the past two years. The collection was at Baakline National Library.





District 2452 - Lebanon: Raising Awareness for a Polio Free world

Rotary Club of Beirut Cadmos members, PP. Samar Salman & PP. Hagop Dantziguian, joined fellow Rotarians from District 2451 in Egypt to raise awareness of and support for Rotary's global mission to eradicate polio.
United across borders, committed to a polio-free world!









Health Begins with Balance: Lefkoşa Sarayönü Rotary Club Raises Breast Cancer Awareness "Every Story is Unique, Every Journey .Matters

In recognition of October Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Lefkoşa Sarayönü Rotary Club organised a meaningful awareness meeting on Tuesday, 20 October 2026, under the theme "Health Begins with Balance."

The event brought together Rotarians, distinguished guest speakers and friends of Rotary to highlight the importance of breast cancer awareness, early detection, emotional well-being and maintaining a healthy balance in everyday life.

The Club was honoured to welcome four distinguished guest speakers: Clinical Psychologist Zeliha Yılmaz, Assistant Professor Dr. Peyman Pınar İnce, Homeopath Dr. İpek Nurdan Dikmen and Ayten Ballıkaya.

Through their insightful presentations and valuable perspectives, the speakers emphasised the importance of physical and emotional well-being, raising awareness, and encouraging individuals to take an active role in protecting their health.

The discussions reminded participants that health is not merely the absence of illness, but also involves maintaining balance in our physical, mental and emotional lives. The evening reinforced the importance of education, mutual support and community involvement in promoting greater health awareness.
A particularly meaningful moment of the evening was the presentation of donations collected in support of KAV (Cancer Research Foundation). This contribution reflected the Club's commitment to supporting cancer research and making a positive difference in the community.

The event was not only an opportunity to share knowledge but also a reflection of Rotary's enduring values of compassion, fellowship and service.

Lefkoşa Sarayönü Rotary Club extends its sincere appreciation to the distinguished speakers for generously sharing their knowledge and experience, as well as to all Rotarians, guests and supporters who contributed to the success of this meaningful gathering.

As we continue to raise awareness, we remain committed to encouraging healthier communities, supporting those affected by cancer and promoting the importance of prevention and early detection.

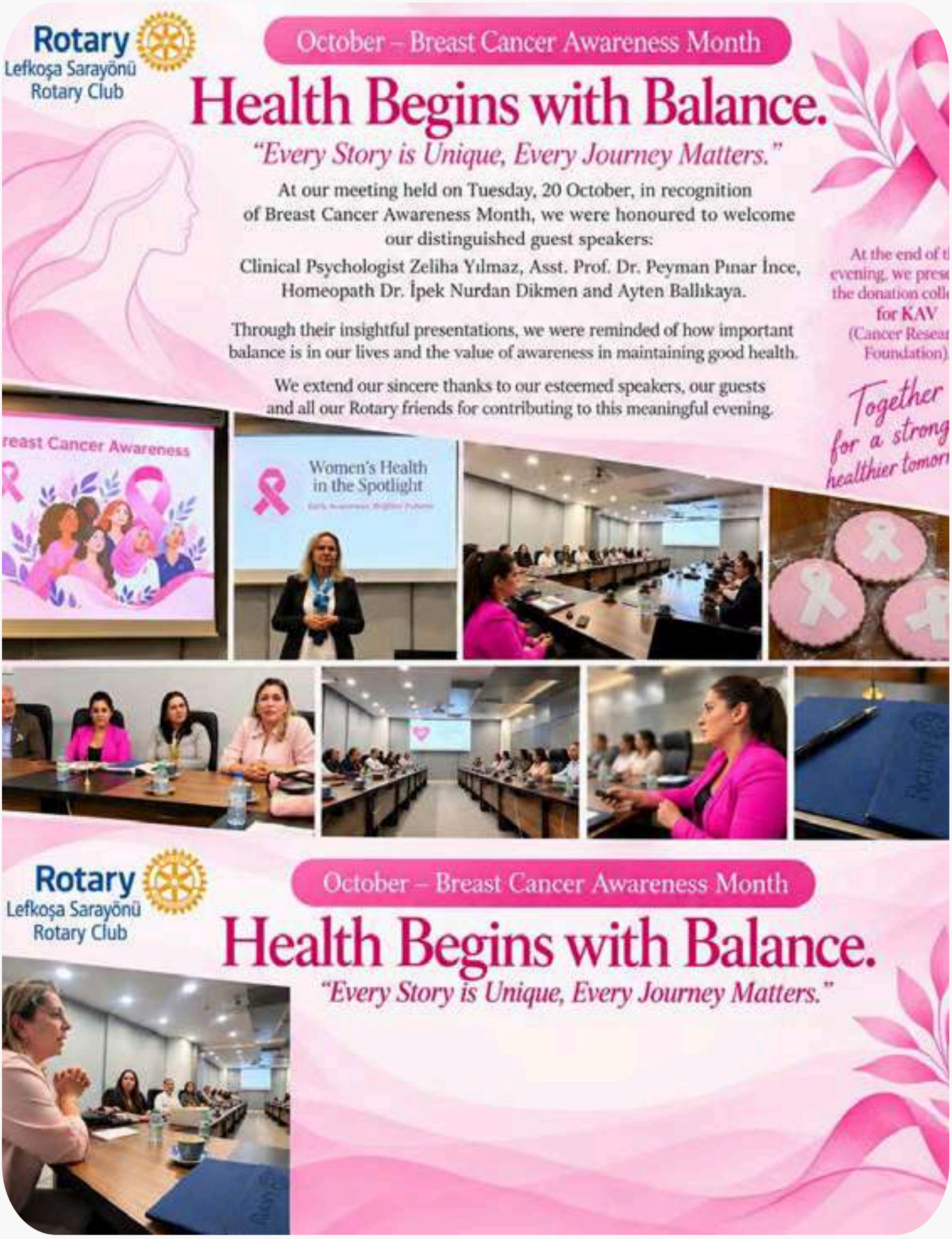
Together, we can build a stronger, healthier and more compassionate future.

Lefkoşa Sarayönü Rotary Club
Service Above Self

Article send by Sertac Gumus,
ICC Chair Cyprus 2026—27,
Club President 2026—27,
Club Learning Facilitator 2026—27

Rotary Club of Kyrenia St.Hilarion

Health Begins with Balance: Lefkoşa Sarayönü Rotary Club Raises Breast Cancer Awareness "Every Story is Unique, Every Journey Matters.



END POLIO NOW – TOGETHER FOR A POLIO-FREE WORLD! - D2452 RC Nicosia Sarayönü

Launched by Rotary International in 1985, End Polio Now is a global initiative dedicated to eradicating polio worldwide.

Every year, on 24 October, World Polio Day, Rotary clubs around the world organise events and activities to support this important cause.

As Lefkoşa Sarayönü Rotary Club, we proudly joined this global effort by bringing together our fellow Rotarians, families and friends for a barbecue gathering at Taşkent Nature Park on Sunday, 25 October.

It was a wonderful day filled with friendship, fellowship and the spirit of service.
We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended, contributed, donated and helped make this meaningful event possible.

❤️ Together, we are stronger. Together, we can end polio for good!

Article send by Sertac Gumus, ICC Chair Cyprus 2026—27, Club President 2026—27, Club Learning Facilitator 2026—27 Rotary Club of Kyrenia St.Hilarion













District 2452 - Bringing Care Where It's Needed Most

Rotary Club Beirut Liberty distributed medications generously donated by Associazione L'Acqua del Tempio ODV to dispensaries across North Lebanon, Baalbek, and Beirut, helping provide essential healthcare to individuals and families facing difficult circumstances.

This initiative reflects our commitment to supporting vulnerable communities, easing the burden on those in need, and making healthcare more accessible.
Because every act of compassion can make a meaningful difference.









District 2452 - Lebanon: Supporting education, empowering futures

The Rotary Club of Chouf was pleased to donate copybooks and school supplies to the students of Ainbal Aatrine Official School (مدرسة عينبال عترين الرسمية), helping them begin the school year with the tools they need to learn and succeed.

We wish all students a successful and inspiring academic year ahead. 🌟











District 2452 - Lebanon: Work Smarter. More Fellowship. Greater Impact

An evening of learning and fellowship brought together the Rotary Clubs of Zahle-Bekaa, Bekaa Vision, Chtaura-Bekaa Gate, and Zahle Capitol for “AI in Action: Transforming Rotary Meetings,” presented by Dr. Nader Chehayeb, P.Eng., District AI Chair 2026–2027.

Held on October 19, 2026, at Grand Hotel Kadri – Zahlé, the session explored how artificial intelligence can support more effective and engaging Rotary meetings, giving members more time to connect and serve. We were also delighted to welcome members of the Rotary Clubs of Aley and Eco, whose presence added to the evening’s spirit of fellowship. A heartfelt thank you to Dr. Nader Chehayeb for sharing his knowledge and practical insights, and to all members and guests for joining us.

Together, we Create Lasting Impact.











Lebanon: 🎓🤖 The stage was theirs—and their ideas !brought it to life

On October 3, 2026, 12 students from different schools in Zahlé and the Bekaa shared their visions for the future at the Rotary Youth Education Challenge 2026, organised by the Rotary Club of Zahlé-Békaa at Grand Kadri Hotel – Zahlé.
The big question?

✨ “Artificial Intelligence in Education: Opportunity or Challenge?”

Club Secretary Kareen Sabbagh welcomed school representatives, teachers, jury members, and guests with a thought-provoking question: If AI can give us answers in seconds, how do we encourage young people to keep questioning, thinking, and creating? She highlighted Rotary’s commitment to education, reminding everyone that lasting impact begins with an opportunity offered, a talent supported, and a young voice heard. 💙

Club President Dr. Badih Hajj Chahine then addressed the students with an encouraging message: “You are all winners!”—recognising the effort and courage each brought to the challenge. With creativity and enthusiasm, students delivered their PowerPoint presentations, each followed by one question, giving them an opportunity to explain and develop their ideas further.

Then came the moment to celebrate! 👏
All participants received a Certificate of Appreciation, and our three winners were recognised with cash prizes:







Lebanon: 🎓🤖 The stage was theirs—and their ideas !brought it to life

🥇 Gold – 1st place: Georges Mrad College St Joseph des soeurs Antonines School, Zahlé–Ksara — $500
🥈 Silver – 2nd place: Ibtihaj Salloum Saadnayel Secondary School — $300
🥉 Bronze – 3rd place: Nabil Janah Qab Elias Private Secondary School — $200

Congratulations to our winners and to all 12 participants for sharing their voices and helping us see the future through their eyes! 🌟

A heartfelt thank-you to our jury members:

• Gaby Abou Haidar, PhD — Associate Professor and Director of AUST Zahlé Campus.
• Hossam Yaktine, PhD in Computer Science — Lecturer at LIU Bekaa.
• Walid Hasna, MBA — Telecommunications Engineer, senior director in Avaya and Assistant Governor for Rotary Year 2026–27.

We thank them for their time, expertise, and thoughtful evaluation, and the participating schools and teachers for supporting and encouraging these young talents.

They shared their ideas. They sparked a conversation. And their voices deserve to be heard. 🌍✨

Together, we Create Lasting Impact.





District 2452 - Cyprus: Rotarians host Nicosia Mayor Charalambos (1/2)

Cyprus: NICOSIA, 23 October 2026— Nicosia Mayor Charalambos Prountzos presented an extensive overview of the capital's achievements, ongoing projects and future challenges during an event organised by the Rotary Club of Nicosia-Aspelia on Thursday evening.

The event was opened by Past District Governor (PDG) Kevork Mahdessian, in the presence of fellow Past District Governor (PDG) Peter Ashjian and a large audience. Rotarian Evi Rossidou introduced the guest speaker, highlighting the key milestones of his professional career.

Supported by a detailed visual presentation featuring statistics, investment figures and development plans, the Mayor outlined his vision for a greener, more sustainable and dynamic European capital.

"Nicosia is changing. We are investing in people, in our neighborhoods and in the environment, with a clear vision of creating a modern European capital that combines innovation, sustainability and quality of life, while preserving its unique identity and history," Prountzos said.

Particular emphasis was placed on expanding green spaces throughout the city, not simply for aesthetic purposes but as an essential investment in public health, environmental sustainability and the future of younger generations. The presentation highlighted the importance of well-maintained parks and green spaces, alongside pedestrian-friendly environments and safe cycling infrastructure.



infrastructure. Among the projects featured were the €3.5 million Agios Antonios Garden and the Agios Kassianos / Chrysaliniotissa Park, reflecting the municipality's efforts to integrate more greenery into the urban landscape.

The Mayor also highlighted efforts to revitalise Nicosia's historic centre, stressing the importance of restoring its vitality by attracting Cypriot businesses, institutions and residents, rather than allowing it to become primarily a tourist destination.

The presentation highlighted more than €200 million in infrastructure investment over a ten-year period, aimed at improving urban mobility, public spaces and the quality of life. Among the projects presented were the €10.5 million regeneration of Ledras and Onasagorou streets, the €9.7 million Inner Ring Road project, and investments in student residences, public gardens and municipal infrastructure.

Social welfare featured prominently in the presentation. According to municipal figures, thousands of citizens benefited from social services in 2025, including childcare, elderly care, counselling and assistance to vulnerable groups. The municipality also outlined its support for charitable organisations and community initiatives.



District 2452 - Cyprus: Rotarians host Nicosia Mayor Charalambos (2/2)



Environmental sustainability was another major theme, including the development of Nicosia's Energy Community, designed to promote renewable energy and reduce electricity costs and carbon emissions.

Speaking with evident enthusiasm, Prountzos moved easily across a wide range of subjects, including technical aspects of municipal projects. He offered a candid assessment of the municipality's work, highlighting achievements while acknowledging obstacles, unresolved problems and occasional disappointments.
The evening concluded with a lively and engaging question-and-answer session, during which participants raised diverse issues concerning the present and future of Nicosia.

The event offered an opportunity for direct dialogue between municipal leadership and the community, reflecting Rotary's commitment to civic engagement and constructive public discussion.



Bahrain: Reaffirming Commitment to End Polio Now

On World Polio Day, the Rotary Club of Manama reaffirms its commitment to the global effort to eradicate polio. As People of Action, we stand with communities worldwide to protect children, advance immunization, and help build a polio-free future. End Polio Now.



Bahrain: A tour of Heritage and Legacy

Rotary Club of Manama visited the Kanoo Museum and discovered over 130 years of Bahrain's rich trade, heritage, and success stories.







Bahrain: Exploration of a Greener impact Inbox

The Rotary Club of Manama is exploring a new community project in the Northern Governorate. Members recently visited a potential site to assess the value of investing in tree planting there.

The goal goes beyond planting trees. The club wants a project with real meaning, one that serves the community over time and reflects Rotary's priorities, including protecting the environment. The project is still taking shape, and more sites will be visited before the club decides where to commit. We look forward to sharing our progress.







Georgia: Official Visit to Georgia of Rotary District 2452 Governor May Monla Chmaitilly

On October 2, 2026, the Rotary Club of Tbilisi Ambassador welcomed Ms. May Monla Chmaitilly, Governor of Rotary District 2452 for the 2026–2027 Rotary year, at the Tbilisi Marriott Hotel during her official visit to Georgia.

During the meeting, Club President Pavle Tvaliashvili presented the club's ongoing and upcoming projects. Governor May shared her vision and priorities for the current Rotary year, along with key initiatives planned across the District.

The meeting provided a valuable opportunity to exchange ideas, strengthen cooperation, and reaffirm our shared commitment to Service Above Self and Rotary's 2026–2027 theme, Create Lasting Impact.





Georgia: Rotary in Action: A Partnership of Compassion and Service

On October 2, 2026, the Rotary Club Tbilisi Ambassador had the pleasure of welcoming members of Rotary Club Pune Gandhi Bhavan, India, for their shared commitment to service.



As part of the collaboration, the two clubs joined forces in a charitable initiative to support the Monk Andrew Foundation, which provides care and support to children battling cancer.



Through this joint project, the clubs donated essential equipment to the Foundation, helping address its needs and support its important mission of caring for children and their families during some of the most challenging moments of their lives.

This initiative reflects the true spirit of Rotary — bringing people together across borders to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.



Rotary Club Tbilisi Ambassador is grateful to its fellow Rotarians from Pune Gandhi Bhavan for their partnership and dedication to service.

Together, we create lasting impact.





Cyprus: Rotary is Looking for Tomorrow's Leaders!

The Rotary Club of Kyrenia Liman, in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Istanbul Barbaros Metropolitan, successfully hosted a full-day Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) seminar for final-year students at Karpaz Vocational High School. Warmly welcomed by Principal Gaye Türker and Administrative Officer Letife Öğdü, the interactive event was led by Professor Yıldız Özalp and opened with remarks from Rotary Club of Kyrenia Liman President Hülya Gökoğlu. Students engaged enthusiastically throughout the day, acquiring practical leadership insights, discovering their potential, and building key skills for the future. Rotarians extend their heartfelt gratitude to Professor Özalp, Almira Üzel, Nilgün Ateş, and the school's administration and students for making this empowering event a resounding success.









Our Dental project is part of a global grant called "Smile For Lebanon" (2024-present) in partnership with "Rotary Geneva International" and Rotary clubs/districts in Switzerland, and in collaboration with the Faculty of Dentistry of Saint Joseph University in Lebanon.

The project aims to provide essential and comprehensive dental care for underprivileged children in Lebanon for various communities such as public schools, orphanages, organizations supporting Deaf children, and inclusive educational institutions. It includes routine dental checkups, fluoride treatments, and interactive awareness sessions focused on oral hygiene, alongside advanced dental treatments for children facing severe dental issues. These initiatives are implemented in collaboration with dentists and residents from the Faculty of Dentistry at Saint Joseph University in Lebanon.



This November, we kickstarted our project for the third consecutive year with “Dar Al Yatima” orphanage in Tripoli - Lebanon. During our last year's visit and checkup, our volunteering dentists from USJ, along with our member Dr. Rania Azar, documented the cases of 16 orphans with severe dental issues. These orphans were transported to the faculty of Dentistry at USJ where they received advanced dental treatment. The sessions were held in a warm and welcoming atmosphere, characterized by professionalism and kindness. At the end of each session, thoughtful gifts and toothbrushes were presented to the orphans, promoting the importance of maintaining healthy dental habits.

Together, we’re spreading smiles and building a healthier future for Lebanon’s deprived children.



Hellenic Parliament, Greece

District 2475



ARPIC Elena Janniki

RC Rodos-Kolossos, District 2475



The Hellenic Parliament Shines for a Polio-Free World

On the evening of October 24, the historic façade of the Hellenic Parliament was bathed in brilliant crimson light.

This striking illumination marked World Polio Day, sending a powerful, visible message from the heart of Athens to the rest of the world: a message of solidarity, global responsibility, and unwavering determination.
For decades, Rotary International has been at the forefront of the global fight to eradicate poliomyelitis. The illumination of Greece's foundational institution serves as a solemn reminder of our shared duty to protect the world's most vulnerable.

A single vaccine has the power to protect a child’s smile, safeguard their health, and shield entire communities from devastation. Prevention is not merely a medical intervention; it is a profound act of care and collective responsibility.Through continuous public awareness, robust vaccination campaigns, and international unity, Rotarians across Greece and the globe persist in this historic crusade. No child, no matter where they are born, should ever be denied the fundamental right to walk, play, and dream freely.

Until polio is eradicated everywhere, we will not stop.
Together, we stand united. END POLIO NOW — for a healthier, safer world free from polio!



Hellenic Parliament and Polio Day

With a powerful message of hope, humanity, and international solidarity, the Hellenic Parliament is taking an active part in the global effort to eradicate polio once and for all by illuminating its façade with the “End Polio Now” campaign logo.

This symbolic initiative was undertaken at the request of Rotary International District 2475, joining our country’s voice with the international effort to protect public health.

As the country’s foremost democratic institution, the Hellenic Parliament embraces initiatives of great humanitarian value, demonstrating Greece’s commitment to the supreme value of human life and to protecting every child.

For more than three decades, Rotary International has led the global partnership with the WHO, UNICEF, and the CDC. It has contributed $2.9 billion and helped vaccinate more than 3 billion children, reducing polio cases by 99.9%.

Polio remains a threat until the last case is eliminated. The illumination of Parliament—which has also placed the events marking World Polio Day under its honorary auspices—serves as a bright reminder of the need for continued global vigilance, science-based prevention, and responsibility toward the future of every child.

🔵 **The Hellenic Parliament is illuminated to mark World Polio Day.**

🔵 **Press release: https://tinyurl.com/bdwsubfu**



District 2475 Leads the Way at the 1st Attica Volunteer Festival

On Saturday, October 24, 2026, Rotary International District 2475 made a powerful and modern showing at the 1st Attica Administrative Region Volunteer Festival in Faliro. The high-profile event provided a prime platform to highlight Rotary's core values, demonstrate our global mission, and showcase the undeniable strength of collective community action.

Standing out among approximately 350 prominent volunteer organizations, District 2475 distinguished itself through strategic organization, a dedicated team of about 20 Rotary volunteers, and the deployment of advanced digital tools. The public response was exceptionally encouraging: 107 individuals officially expressed interest in learning more about Rotary's humanitarian avenues and becoming a part of our global network of service.

Beyond public engagement, the festival opened new strategic doors. By building bridges with fellow volunteer organizations, District 2475 laid the groundwork for future cross-sector collaborations that will amplify our community reach. Furthermore, the District's forward-thinking approach to event management achieved a 97% reduction in paper usage through digital communication methods, proving that modern innovation and environmental responsibility can go hand in hand under Rotary leadership.

This remarkable success is a testament to meticulous planning, shared vision, and, above all, the active, passionate participation of our Rotarians.

Mobilization is far more than an initiative; it is the vital force that turns ideas into action, introductions into lasting



partnerships, and individual participation into deep social impact. Moving forward with a spirit of openness, innovation, and an unwavering commitment to service, District 2475 continues to create new opportunities to engage, inspire, and elevate our local communities.













Komotini became the heart of Greece's contribution to the global fight for a world free of polio!

On October 24, 2026, the border city of Komotini sent a powerful message of solidarity and unity by hosting Rotary International District 2475's official dinner in support of Rotary International's global End Polio Now initiative, under the auspices of the Hellenic Parliament. Hosted by the Rotary Club of Komotini-Rodopi, the historic Komotini Club became a meeting place for Rotarians from Greece and Romania. Rotary Clubs across Eastern Macedonia and Thrace joined forces, showing that collaboration knows no borders and that service can begin in every corner of our country.

Art turned into service! Rotarian Kevork Melkonian donated artworks that were displayed and auctioned to raise funds for the End Polio Now campaign. Special recognition also goes to Rotarian Marianna Papadaki of the Rotary Club of Heraklion Candia, who created and donated a work bearing the campaign logo, demonstrating her support for the fight to eradicate polio. Through music, art, and generosity, creativity became a source of funding for a world free of polio.

Komotini did more than host an event. It brought people, ideas, and contributions together around a shared humanitarian goal. From the border region of Thrace, we continue to mobilize, collaborate, and serve until every child is safe from polio.

End Polio Now — Together, until the final victory!







Komotini became the heart of Greece's contribution to the global fight for a world free of polio! 🌍💜












END
POLIO
NOW

Educational Support in Action: Rotary Club Heraklion-Candia Donates Books to Agios Thomas Primary School

On Wednesday, October 7, 2026, the Rotary Club Heraklion-Candia successfully completed a targeted community service initiative by donating a significant collection of literary and educational books to the Agios Thomas Primary School, located in the Municipality of Gortyna, Heraklion.

The official handover was conducted by the Board of Directors of the Rotary Club Heraklion-Candia, led by the Club's President, Maria Antonakaki. The educational materials were formally received by school educator Peristera Alogdianaki, who expressed her gratitude on behalf of the school administration and the student body.

This donation was specifically curated to enrich the school's educational resources, address the immediate academic needs of the students, and actively reinforce the vital educational work being performed in regional municipal schools. By ensuring that young learners have direct access to high-quality literature and educational guides, the project aims to foster a lifelong love for reading and learning.Through this initiative, the Rotary Club Heraklion-Candia once again demonstrates its unwavering commitment to community development and basic education—one of Rotary International's primary areas of focus.



Greece Race for the Cure® 2026

With a powerful message of solidarity, awareness, and support for women facing breast cancer, Rotary International District 2475 once again took an active part in the 2026 Race for the Cure, promoting awareness, prevention, and early detection.

Coordinated by former Assistant Governor Rachel Topalidou in Athens, former President Mary Theodoropoulou in Thessaloniki, and former Assistant Governor Yannis Samiotis in Crete, the District team set a remarkable example of collective action.
Participants from 33 clubs across Greece joined the event, bringing together 200 Rotarians from across Greece and abroad!

The main event took place in Athens on Sunday, October 4, at Pedion tou Areos. Participants walked the five-kilometre route together, sending a powerful message that no one is alone in the fight for health and life.

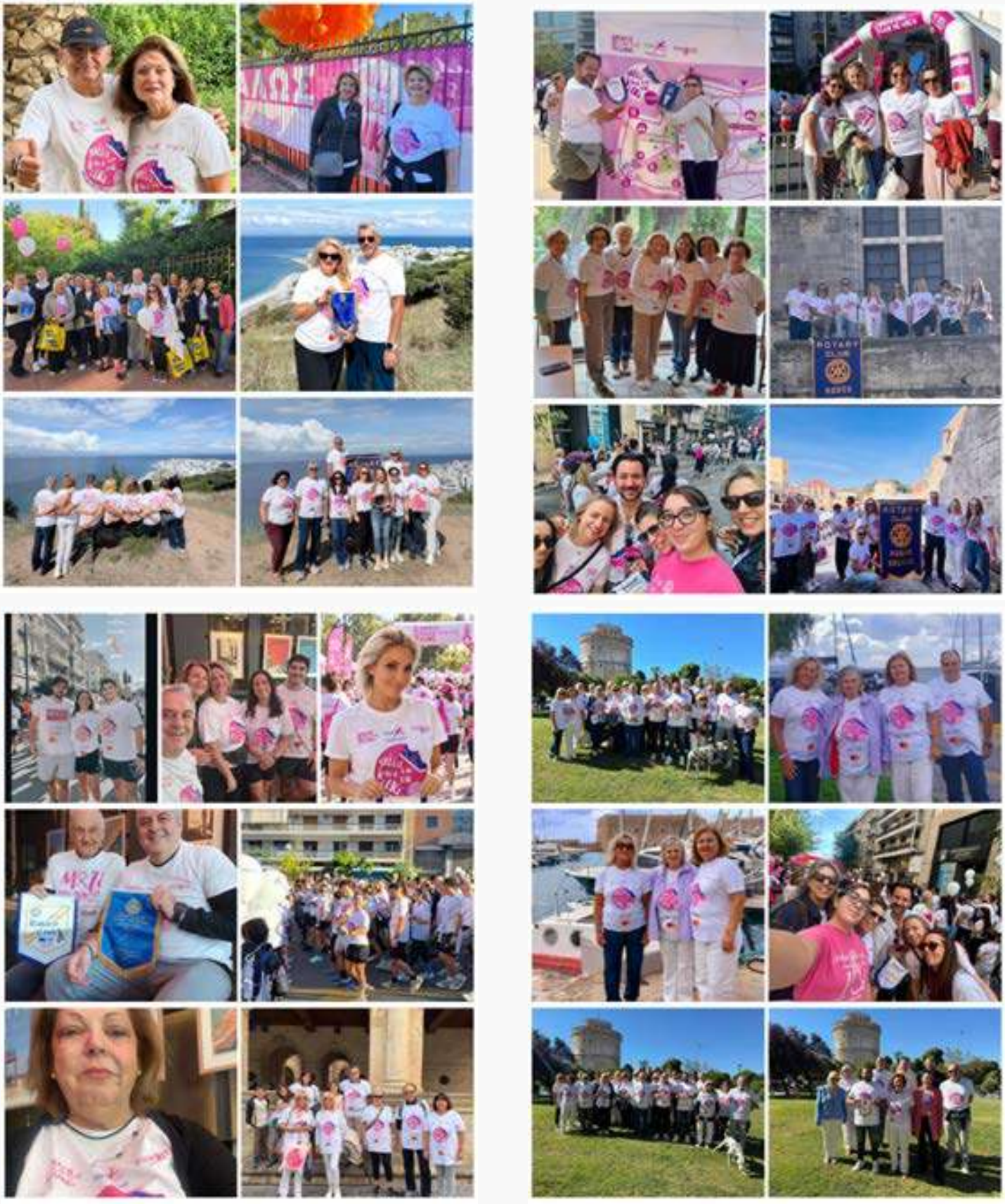
The initiative also made a meaningful social contribution: the €2,200 in registration fees was donated to the Hellenic Association of Women with Breast Cancer “Alma Zois,” supporting the Association’s important work and the women facing the disease.
Rotary International District 2475 Governor Charalambos Tinginagas said: “It is a great joy and honour for Rotary International District 2475 to take part in an initiative that sends such a powerful message: no one is alone in the fight for health and life.Congratulations to the clubs that took part!”

Congratulations to all the participating clubs:
Athinai, Athens–Armonia, Athens–North, Athens–South, Athens–Lycabettus, Alexandroupolis, Anoixi–Semeli, Voula, Dionysos, Ilioupoli, Heraklion, Heraklion–Candia, Heraklion–Nikos Kazantzakis, Thessaloniki East, Thessaloniki–Megas Alexandros, Thessaloniki Metropolitan, Ioannina, Kalamaria, Kifissia–Kastri, Kifissia–Politeia, Corinth, Omonia, Panorama, Parnitha, Piraeus–Anatoli, Rhodes, Rodos–Kolossos, Chalandri, Chania, E-Club, Interact Club Pegasus, Hellenic Aegean Fleet, and Hellenic South Aegean Fleet.





Greece Race for the Cure® 2026



Rotary Club of Rhodes Honored for Ambitious 100-Acre Reforestation Initiative

The Rotary Club of Rhodes has been honored for the second consecutive year for its exemplary environmental initiative aimed at restoring fire-damaged forest areas across the island. The prestigious accolade was presented during the 2nd Tourism in Climate Crisis Forum (TCC Forum), held on September 25–26, 2026.The award recognizes local organizations and businesses making measurable contributions to protecting and restoring the natural ecosystem of Rhodes.

The RC of Rhodes stood out for its continuous, hands-on work spearheaded by its Environment and Sustainability Committee. Comprising dedicated Rotarians Doukissa Chatzimichali (Chair), Alekos Glynos, Sotiris Mandrakos, Anna Mavriou, Vangelis Katsogridakis, and Minas Papadakis, the committee works in close partnership with the environmental organization "For Nature" to ensure all reforestation efforts comply with strict legal guidelines and approved ecological studies.

This long-term project was launched in 2023 under the presidency of Ioannis Chalikias, maintained through 2024 under Nikos Retsas, and continues to expand during the current two-year presidential term. The club has set a highly ambitious milestone: to reforest a total of 100 acres (strémata) of burnt land over the next seven years.

The award was proudly accepted by the 2025–2027 President of the Club, Dr. Veatriki-Kalliopi Servou, alongside Club Secretary Evanthia Boni, Past Assistant Governors Kyriakos Kyriakoulis and Stamos Papastamatiou, Past President Sotiris Mandrakos, and fellow club members.

True to the Rotary spirit of lasting impact, this award marks a milestone rather than a finish line. The Rotary Club of Rhodes has already scheduled its next cycle of tree-planting events, steadily turning a vision of ecological recovery into reality.






Marking the beginning of the new school year, the Rotary Club of Voula successfully carried out a community service initiative at the "Aghia Sophia" Children's Hospital.

As part of this initiative, club members donated school supplies, stationery, and toys to children temporarily hosted at the hospital under protective custody (prosecutorial orders). The project aimed to provide practical support for the children's educational needs while bringing joy to their daily lives.



During the visit, the Rotarians met with the Head of the hospital's Social Services Department, Mrs. Roula Sotiropoulou. She briefed the club members on the daily living conditions of these children, as well as the unique challenges faced by social workers and healthcare professionals. The discussion centered on the increased needs of children remaining in the hospital due to social and family issues, exploring ways in which organizations and citizens can actively contribute to improving their care and support systems. The Rotary Club of Voula emphasized that this initiative is not a one-time event, but rather the beginning of an ongoing partnership with the hospital's Social Services Department. The club reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining a steady presence and finding meaningful ways to support children in highly vulnerable situations.



This impactful community initiative also gained wider recognition, being featured in The National Herald (Ethnikos Keryx), the premier historic newspaper documenting the Greek Diaspora and bringing stories of community leadership to generations of Greek-Americans.

Rotary Club of Dionysos Honors Georgios Drossinis and Supports the Fight to End Polio

In a remarkable intersection of culture, education, and public health, the Rotary Club of Dionysos joined forces with "The Friends of the G. Drossinis Museum" and the "National Society of Greek Writers" for a special event at the historic Parnassos Literary Society in Athens.

The evening was dedicated to celebrating the life and enduring legacy of the celebrated Greek author Georgios Drossinis, with a specific focus on his monumental contributions to the Greek educational system. Attendees learned about Drossinis's pioneering role in introducing vital student health initiatives, such as implementing school vaccinations and establishing routine medical examinations for children by school doctors.

The event also served as a platform to highlight Rotary International's global humanitarian mission.

District Governor Charalampos Tigginagas and Past District Governor Kosmas Choutouriadis took the stage to speak passionately about the monumental work of Rotary in its decades-long fight to eradicate polio worldwide, while also educating the audience on the profound impact and inner workings of The Rotary Foundation.

The spirit of collaboration culminated in a meaningful philanthropic gesture. The President of "The Friends of the G. Drossinis Museum"—who also serves as the President of the Rotary Club of Dionysos—presented a financial donation to the Rotary club.

Raised through sponsorships from the Museum Association's dedicated members, these funds were officially contributed to The Rotary Foundation to strengthen its vital, ongoing global campaign to completely eliminate polio.









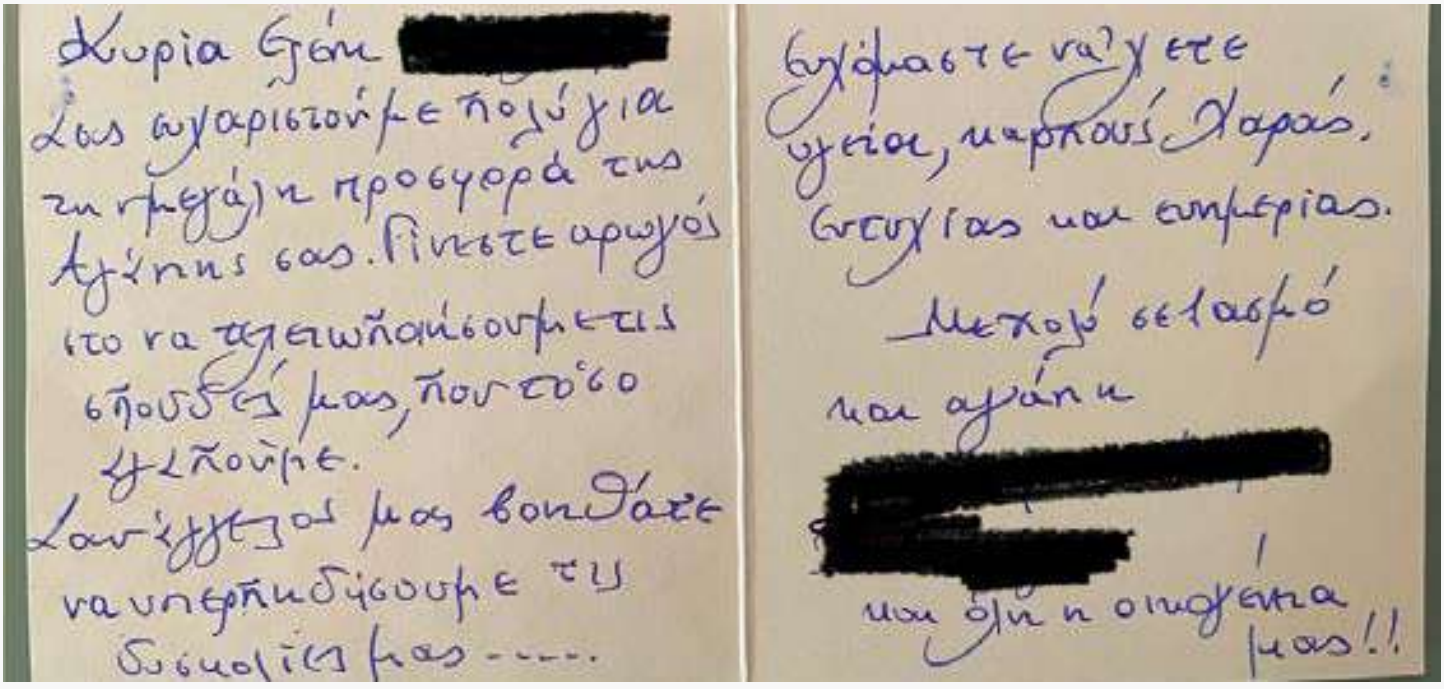
Rotary Club of Dionysos Supports Disadvantaged Siblings with University Travel Scholarship

Remaining deeply committed to its core values of solidarity and community support, the Rotary Club of Dionysos has awarded a €500 financial scholarship to two underprivileged siblings to help cover their essential university commuting expenses.



Navigating higher education can present severe financial hurdles for disadvantaged families. Recognizing this challenge, the club stepped in to ensure that these two dedicated students can commute to their respective universities without financial stress obstructing their academic journeys. By covering their transportation costs, the Rotary Club of Dionysos aims to provide practical relief and empower the siblings to focus entirely on their studies and future aspirations.

This initiative is a direct reflection of Rotary's ongoing mission to foster education and provide targeted, life-changing support to vulnerable members of the local community.



Rotary Club of Koropi Honors October 28th National Anniversary

On October 28, 2026, the Rotary Club of Koropi actively participated in the official national anniversary ceremonies, laying a wreath to pay tribute to those who fought for freedom and their homeland.

October 28th marks "Ohi Day" (No Day), one of Greece's most significant historical milestones. It commemorates the country's historic 1940 refusal to surrender to fascist forces, serving as a timeless symbol of courage, unity, and resistance against totalitarianism.

Through its presence, the Club proudly honored the enduring values of liberty and heroism.





Santorini-Oia Rotary Club Supports 74th Island Blood Drive

Demonstrating a strong commitment to civic duty and community welfare, the Rotary Club of Santorini-Oia actively mobilized its network for the island's 74th Voluntary Blood Drive. Responding to an urgent call from the Santorini Blood Bank, club members and local supporters volunteered to help replenish vital local blood reserves.

Club representatives emphasized that voluntary blood donation stands as the ultimate act of selfless service. Through their dynamic turnout, the Rotarians aimed to send a powerful message of solidarity and hope across the entire Santorini community.

The event featured active participation from the club's leadership and members, highlighting the organization's focus on concrete community contribution. Reflecting on the initiative, organizers shared a central message: "Every drop of blood is an act of love and solidarity. Every blood donor can become a link in the chain of life."

Following the successful drive, the Rotary Club of Santorini-Oia extended its gratitude to the Santorini Blood Bank and the dedicated medical and nursing personnel for their flawless organization of the event. The club reaffirmed its long-term pledge to support future healthcare and social solidarity initiatives across the region.





Rotary Club of Athinai Renews Safe Play Space for Children at "Dimitreio" Center

Extending its ongoing commitment to supporting vulnerable youth, the Rotary Club of Athinai has successfully completed a comprehensive courtyard renovation at the "Dimitreio" Creative Employment Center for Children (KDAP) in Moschato. The facility provides a nurturing environment, care, and creative outlets for children whose families face severe socio-economic hardships. Recognizing that the center's existing safety flooring had deteriorated significantly and posed safety concerns, the Rotary Club of Athens stepped in to completely reconstruct the outdoor area. Club members oversaw the installation of a high-quality artificial turf covering a total surface area of 170 square meters, which included upgrading a 32-square-meter section behind the main facility building. The initiative transforms the worn courtyard into a modern, secure, and beautiful space designed for carefree play and daily physical activities.

The project launch was attended by key club leaders, including the President of the Rotary Club of Athens, Anastasios Ballas, and Board Member Panos Kofinakos, alongside fellow Rotarians Georgios Makridis and Tony Emsen. Corporate social responsibility played a central role in the day, with representatives Athanasios Karaviotis and Katerina Gola attending on behalf of ADELCO—a company led by Rotarian Thanos Athanasiadis—to express their practical alignment with the initiative.

For the Rotary Club of Athinai, this intervention represents far more than a single donation; it marks the continuation of a long-standing relationship of care and community support for the children and their dedicated caregivers. Club representatives reiterated their core belief that every child deserves equal opportunities, security, and a joyful environment to inspire their dreams.











Rotary Club of Athinai Equips Attica Police Headquarters with PTZ Security Camera

In line with its long-standing commitment to community service and the practical support of public institutions, the Rotary Club of Athinai officially donated a high-tech pan-tilt-zoom (PTZ) rotating security camera to the Attica General Police Directorate (GADA).

The official handover was led by the President of the Rotary Club of Athens, Rotarian Anastasios Ballas, and Club Treasurer, Rotarian Yiannis Pouspourikas. In a true demonstration of Rotary's spirit of vocational and personal service, Club Member Rotarian Ioannis Sougias personally covered the entire installation cost, ensuring the system was immediately operational.

The delegation was received by the Head of Security First Officer Panagiotis Voulis, who expressed the department's gratitude for the upgrade to their monitoring capabilities.

This initiative highlights the crucial role that strategic civic partnerships play in enhancing public safety and supporting essential government infrastructure. By addressing the technical needs of local law enforcement, the Rotary Club of Athens continues to model Rotary's core values of social responsibility, solidarity, and impactful community action.







Bourgas Lakes, Bulgaria
District 2482

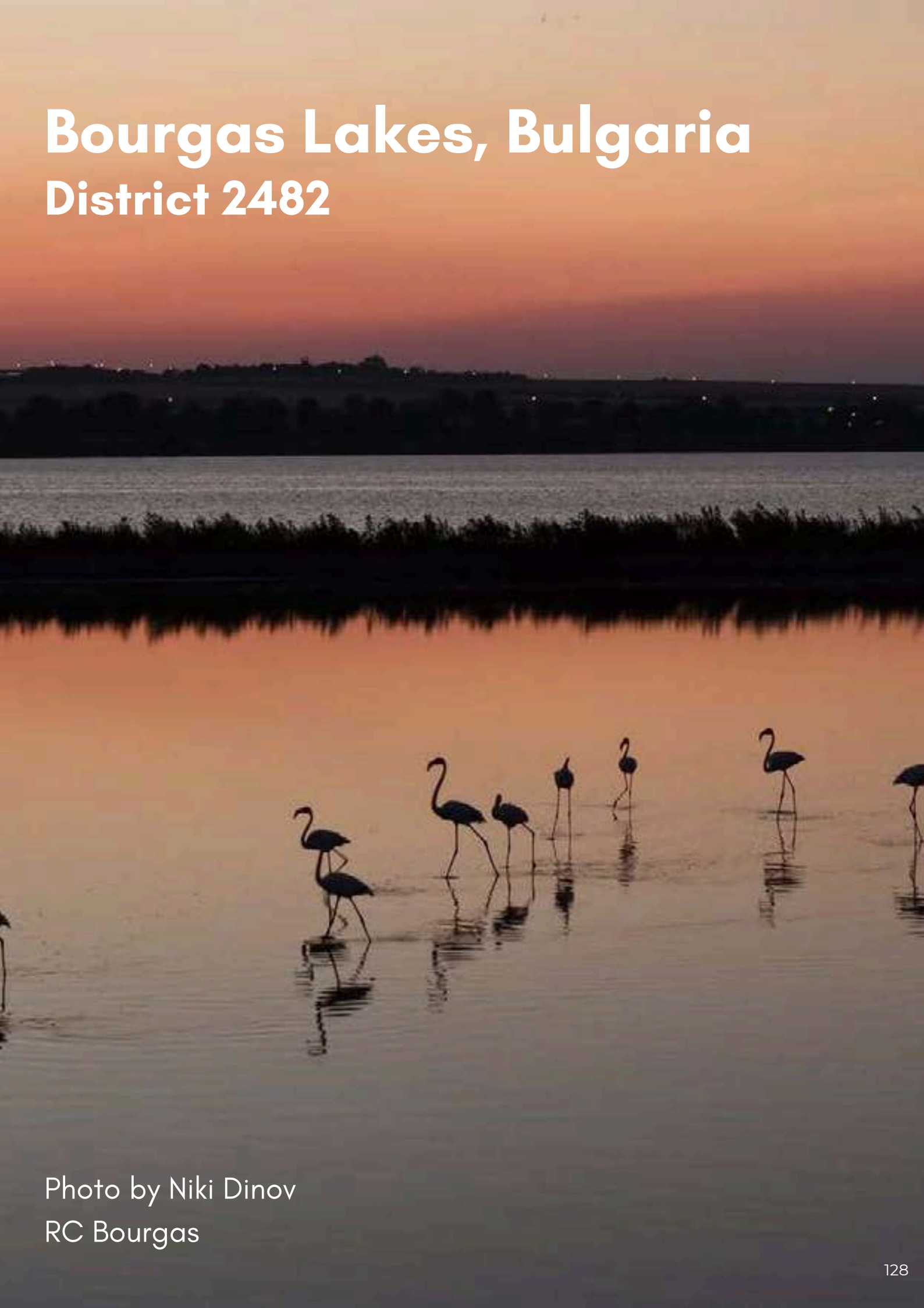


Photo by Niki Dinov
RC Bourgas

ARPIC Arkan Nihat

Rotary club Kardjali, District 2482



Rotarians and Friends Climb Mount Bratia for World Polio Day

On 24 October, marking World Polio Day, members of Rotary Club Panagyurishte and friends took part in a hike to Mount Bratia (1,530 metres), combining outdoor activity with a powerful message of global solidarity.
The initiative highlighted one of Rotary's longest-standing humanitarian commitments: the complete eradication of polio through the global End Polio Now campaign.

Under sunny skies, the group reached the summit and enjoyed spectacular views across Sredna Gora. While there, participants also replaced the flag flying at the top, leaving behind a renewed symbol of their shared achievement.

The hike brought people together around a cause that reaches far beyond national borders. Every effort to raise awareness helps keep the fight against polio visible and reminds communities that the goal of a polio-free world requires continued commitment and collective action.

As the organisers explained, the idea was to combine a meaningful cause with an enjoyable day in nature – encouraging people to be active while drawing attention to a global health priority.

One shared journey, one global mission: a world free from polio.



Rotary Clubs in Burgas and Kaunas Lay the Foundations for an International Partnership

Rotary Club Burgas welcomed fellow Rotarians from Kauno Rotary klubas (Rotary Club Kaunas, Lithuania) for a visit that combined cultural discovery with the first steps towards a lasting international partnership.

The Lithuanian guests explored Nessebar, discovering the rich history and unique atmosphere of Bulgaria's Old Town. The programme continued with a wine tasting at Messembria Winery, offering an opportunity to share experiences, enjoy friendly conversations and strengthen the bonds between members of the two clubs.

A key moment of the visit was the beginning of the process towards establishing a sister-club relationship between Rotary Club Burgas and Rotary Club Kaunas. This partnership promises opportunities to exchange experience, develop joint service projects and broaden international cooperation in keeping with Rotary's values.

Friendship knows no borders. When people unite through a shared commitment to service, they can achieve even more together.

More photographs and details about the visit, the experiences in Nessebar and the wine tasting at Messembria Winery can be found in the article published on the Rotary Club Burgas website.

Such encounters demonstrate the international spirit of Rotary. Friendships built across borders can become the foundation for meaningful, long-term cooperation, bringing together people who share a commitment to serving their communities.

Rotary Club Burgas thanked its friends from Kaunas for their visit, the shared experiences and their enthusiasm for future collaboration. Both clubs look forward to their next meetings and to turning this new friendship into joint action.



Interact Club Haskovo Adds a New Facility to Kenana Park

Young members of Interact Club Haskovo have added a practical new feature to Kenana Park, demonstrating how young people can take responsibility for improving the spaces shared by their community.



The Interactors installed an information board near the outdoor fitness equipment and table tennis table previously provided by Rotary Club Haskovo–Aida and donated to the Municipality of Haskovo.

The board offers useful guidance on the correct and safe use of the sports facilities. It also has a practical feature: hooks where visitors can hang their coats, backpacks and bags while exercising.

The project was funded entirely through charitable initiatives organised by the young members themselves. By raising the necessary funds, planning the installation and delivering the project, they turned their own idea into a tangible community benefit.



Interact, Rotary's international youth programme, encourages young people to develop leadership skills, embrace volunteerism and contribute to their communities. In Haskovo, members put these values into practice through initiatives such as charity martenitsa sales and the "Buy and Donate" campaign supporting people in need.
With the continued support of Rotary Club Haskovo–Aida, these young volunteers are learning that meaningful change does not always require large-scale projects.

Sometimes, it begins with noticing a need and taking the initiative to address it. Young people taking action today are

25 Years of Rotary Club Nova Zagora: "Digitalise Education"

Rotary Club Nova Zagora is continuing its long-term commitment to modernising education across the municipality with another contribution to local schools and kindergartens. As part of its "Digitalise Education" project, the club surprised the children and staff of Slanchitse Kindergarten in Nova Zagora with a multimedia projector.
This latest donation represents another step in a sustainable initiative that has already delivered more than 40 interactive displays to educational institutions throughout the municipality.

By bringing modern technology into learning environments, the project aims to create new opportunities for children and teachers alike. Digital tools can make lessons more engaging, encourage curiosity and creativity, and help educators introduce innovative teaching methods from an early age.

As Rotary Club Nova Zagora marks its 25th anniversary, the project reflects a commitment that extends beyond individual donations. It is a long-term investment in education, equal opportunities and the development of future generations.

Every new learning tool opens a door to discovery. By supporting digital education, Rotary Club Nova Zagora is helping children take their first steps towards a future full of possibilities.



A City That Saves Lives: Kyustendil Students Learn How to Act When Every Second Counts

Knowing how to respond in a medical emergency can save a life. Through its initiative “A City That Saves Lives”, Rotary Club Kyustendil is helping young people gain the knowledge and confidence to act when every second matters.



Launched during Heart Week, the programme began with practical first-aid and emergency response training for pupils from primary and secondary schools across the municipality. Particular attention was given to the correct use of automated external defibrillators (AEDs).





Between 29 September and 2 October, the training reached eight schools: Nikola Yonkov Vaptsarov Vocational High School of Tourism, Vasil Levski Sports School, Sixth Primary School St Paisii Hilendarski, John Atanasov Vocational High School of Technology, Yordan Zahariev Vocational High School of Economics and Management, Professor Emanuel Ivanov Mathematics and Natural Sciences High School, St Kliment Ohridski Vocational High School of Agriculture and Third Primary School Professor Marin Drinov.



The pupils were active participants rather than passive listeners. They asked questions, practised emergency response procedures and learned how to operate an AED. Their engagement demonstrated the value of introducing life-saving skills at an early age.

The sessions are delivered with the professional support of the Volunteer Rescue Unit of the Zavet za Zemyata Association, led by Zdravko Velinov. Rotary Club Kyustendil expressed its gratitude to the team for sharing essential knowledge with the students in an accessible and practical way.
However, school training is only the first stage of a broader ambition. The next phase will include installing AEDs at key public locations throughout Kyustendil, clearly marking their positions and providing further training for people working nearby. Having a defibrillator available is vital; having someone who knows how and when to use it is equally important.

The club also thanked the participating schools, their management teams and teachers for their cooperation, and especially the students for their enthusiasm and willingness to learn.
A city that saves lives is built through knowledge, preparation and people willing to act. By equipping young generations with life-saving skills, Rotary Club Kyustendil is helping create a safer and more responsible community.







Rotary Club Ruse–Danube Provides a Public Access Defibrillator for the City

A fourth automated external defibrillator (AED) is now available in Ruse, strengthening the city's growing network of life-saving equipment in public spaces. The device, provided by Rotary Club Ruse–Danube, has been installed at Knyaz Alexander Battenberg Square, in the heart of the city.

The location, close to the Lyuben Karavelov Regional Library and other public facilities, was selected because of the high number of people passing through the area and the importance of ensuring quick access in an emergency.

Through this donation, Rotary Club Ruse–Danube is contributing to a wider effort to equip key public locations with devices that can help save lives during the critical minutes before emergency medical teams arrive.
Automated external defibrillators are designed to be used even by people without medical training. Once switched on, the device provides clear voice and visual instructions, analyses the heart rhythm and delivers an electric shock only when necessary.

In cases of sudden cardiac arrest, every minute matters. Having an accessible AED in a public place can support a faster response and improve the chances of survival before professional medical assistance arrives.
The initiative to establish a network of public access defibrillators in Ruse brings together the Municipality of Ruse, the Bulgarian Red Cross, medical organisations, healthcare institutions and non-governmental organisations.

By making life-saving equipment more accessible, Rotary Club Ruse–Danube is helping build a community that is better prepared to respond when every second counts.

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Rotary Club Bourgas | Maths Festival

INTERNATIONAL ROTARY MATHS FESTIVAL

A Maths Festival for children of grades 1 to 12 organised in Bourgas, Bulgaria, by the Rotary club of Bourgas



PHOTO: NIKI DINOV

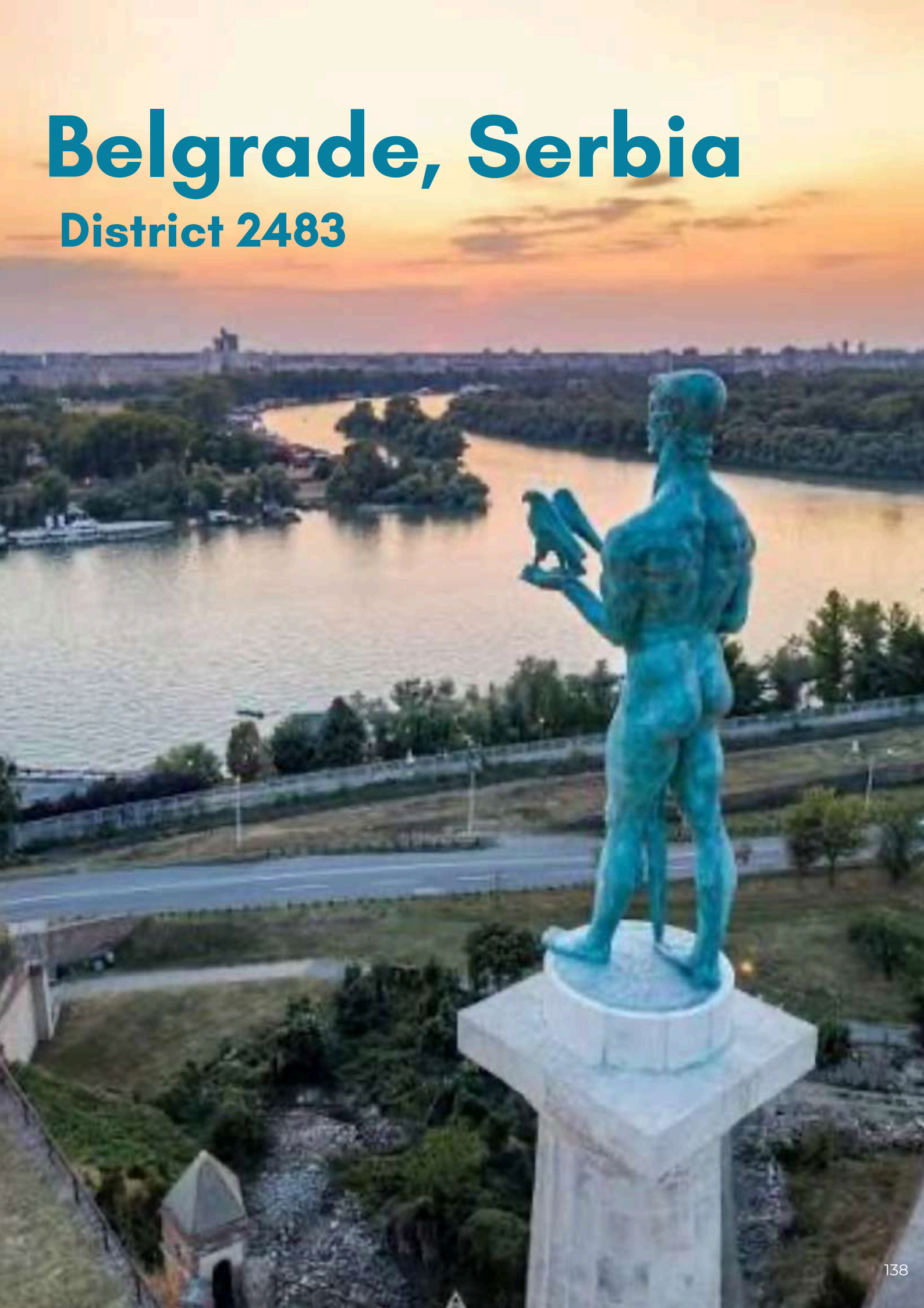
LOCAL ROUND

October 25, 2026

Different places around the world

Belgrade, Serbia

District 2483



ARPIC Aleksandar Radojicic

RC Beograd Skadarlija, D2483



In the inspiring setting of the Museum of Contemporary Art of Vojvodina, as part of the internationalDanube Dialogues Festival, Rotary Club Novi Sad Eco-Artlaunched its activities for the Create LastingImpact Rotary year with ART-ECODialogues, exploring the connections between Rotary, art, culture and care for the environment.

Entitled “Rituals and Rhythms of Rotary, Art and Ecology”, the gathering invited reflection on the rhythms of contemporary communities, the ritualsthat bring us together, and the ways art and creativity can enrich Rotaryservice and inspireresponsible action for people and nature.

We were honouredto welcome District2483 Governor Daliborka Bradić, who sharedpersonal insights shaped by her dedication to Rotary values, humanitarian service and the natural world. Fellow panellists included Ana Vrtačnik, whose academic and artistic work connects creativity with ecology, and Miljan Vojnović, an university professor, actor, manager and psychodrama practitioner, who offered valuable perspectives on people, art, community and nature.

The discussion was moderated by Vesna Latinović, Director of the Danube Dialogues Festival and an honorary club member, and Marija Jevtić, Club Secretary and District 2483 Climate Action Coordinator.

Club President Gordana Nišević Tadić opened and closed the event with a message that lasting positive change grows from human connection, shared values and small but consistent acts of service.

A particular focus was placed on Rotary rituals as expressions of belonging, trust and continuity and on how they can be enriched by art, culture and environmental responsibility. This connection between enduringRotary values and contemporary social and environmental challenges is central to our club’s distinctive identity.

Questions from the audience and the sharing of personal experiences turned the gathering into a genuine dialogue, followed by a curator-led tour of the festival exhibition. ART-ECO Dialogues reaffirmed that art is more than an aesthetic experience: it can bring people together, deepen understanding and inspire responsible community action.



RC Novi Sad Eco-Art
ECO-ART &OPENS (F)ORA | A Hands-OnDay for Nature, Art and Friendship

On 26 September, children, Rotary members and friends, and volunteers came together at OPENS in Novi Sad for a hands-on day of creativity, learning, nature and friendship.
The programme combined art and gardening workshops, giving children opportunities to explore their imagination, develop environmental awarenessand learn about caring for nature through play, creative expression and practical activities.
A delightful clothesline exhibition displayed children's artwork from an earlier workshop. The colours, ideas and messages highlighted the importance of giving young people space to express themselves and experience art as part of everyday life. The art workshop created further opportunities to connect and create together.
During the gardening workshop, participants plantedcolourful pansies, whichwe will continue to care for indoors at OPENS. This small green action remains a living reminder of our time together and a symbol of the patience, care and continuity needed for a greener future.
A Green Talk workshop encouraged an open exchangeon the green agenda, energysystems, the energy transition and the potential role of nuclearpower in a sustainable and responsible energy future. The discussion highlighted the value of exchanging knowledge and exploring different perspectives on environmental issues.
We were delighted to welcome incoming District Governor Vladimir Lalošević, Michelle Matthews from Georgia,USA, friends from Rotary Club Novi Sad and an Assistant Governor.
The exchange of Rotarypennants, experiences and ideas for future activities was a reminder that Rotary fellowship knows no borders.
The event formed part of our ongoing partnership with OPENS, an association of youth organisationswith which Rotary Club Novi Sad Eco-Arthas signed a cooperation agreement. Together, we connect young people, children and volunteers through creativity, education, social responsibility and environmental protection.
Our sincere thanks go to our OPENS partners, every child, volunteer, Rotary friend and participant who helped make the day one of learning, creativity, fellowship and positiveenergy.
Rituals connect us. Rhythms move us. Art inspires us and working together enables us to create lasting impact.







RC Novi Sad Eco-Art
EDU-ECO-ART (Education • Wellbeing • Environment) Young Minds, Lasting Impact

For Rotary Club Novi Sad Eco-Art, education provides a vitallink between environmental awareness, art, health and service to the community.

We are especially committed to working with children and young people, believing that knowledge, creativity and personal empowerment help build a healthier, more responsible and sustainable future. Throughout September—Rotary's Basic Education and Literacy Month—our members dedicated their time, expertise and volunteer service to local schools through our EDU-ECO-ART programme, connecting education, environmental protection, health and active youth participation.

We were delighted to begin a new partnership with "Laza Kostić" Primary School in Kovilj, focused on education, environmental protection, health and children's creative development. During our first visit, we held an interactive workshop with fourth-grade pupils, discussing nature, healthyhabits, the importance of protecting the environment and the contribution each of us can make to a healthier community.

The children's curiosity, openness, imagination and thoughtful questions reminded us that meaningful education begins with exploration and freedom of expression. In these encounters, children are not merely listeners but active partners whose ideas and creativity enrich the learning experience.

We thank the school principal, teaching staff and class teacher for their warm welcome and willingnessto collaborate, and the pupilsfor their enthusiasm and inspiring participation. This meeting marks the start of a partnership we hope to develop through further educational and creative workshops, school visits, joint events and environmental activities.

One planned initiative is an Eco-Art Corner—a dedicated space where children can develop and present theirideas, bring art and naturetogether, and take small, practical steps towards a more environmentally responsible school community.

We believe that initiatives built on collaboration, trust and children's active participation can grow into long-term change and lasting positive impact.

29 September| A Little Mental HygieneTraining, a Big Step Towards Youth Resilience

Continuing our long-standing collaboration with "7 April" Secondary Medical School in Novi Sad, Rotary Club Novi Sad Eco-Art delivered another EDU-ECO-ART activity dedicated to empowering young people and supporting mental wellbeing.

The workshop, "A Little Mental Hygiene Training: Empowering Adolescents to Protect Their Mental Health in Times of Change", was led by prof dr Marija Jevtić.

In an open, welcoming atmosphere, first-year pharmacy students explored the challenges of adjusting to a new school, setting personal goals, developing perseverance and self-confidence, and building psychological resilience.

Starting secondary school is an important life transition, bringing new expectations, responsibilities and challenges. The workshop therefore focused on recognising personal strengths, understanding individual abilities and developing healthy study habits. Through conversation and shared experiences, students were encouraged to reflect on their aspirations and future goals while remaining flexible and open to change. Together, we considered how discipline, curiosity and perseverance can go hand in hand with the freedom to learn, reconsider decisions, change our minds and grow.

Through workshops like this, we aim to support essential life skills, personal empowerment and awareness of mental health during the formative years of adolescence.

We are grateful to the students for their openness and active participation and to “7 April” Secondary Medical School for its hospitality, trust and longstanding partnership.

More than $350,000invested in improvingpreschool education and creating a more stimulating environment for children’s learning and development

Through a partnership with the Ministryof Education of the Republicof Serbia—established via a Memorandum of Cooperation within the "Years of Ascent" (*Godine uzleta*) program—Rotary Clubs in Serbia have equipped 100 kindergartens across 45 cities and municipalities nationwide. This initiative has helped improveworking conditions for educators while fostering a higher-quality environment for children’s learning, play, and development.

The project focuses on enhancing preschool education by donating modern furniture and digitalequipment, enabling educatorsto foster children’s curiosity, exploration, and acquisition of new knowledge in a creativeand interactive way.

Each kindergarten includedin the project receives four pieces of mobile furniture and six digital devicesor pieces of equipment—such as a laptop,printer, camera or tablet, webcam, laminator, and projector. This equipment provides additional opportunities to carry out activities tailored to children's needs and aligned with modern approaches to preschool education.

The total value of the "Global Grant" projects implemented to date for equipping kindergartens has exceeded 350,000 US dollars, underscoring the importance of international cooperation and joint investment in the education of the youngest children. An important component of the project is the mandatory training for preschool educators, which has already been attended by over 200 educational professionals from various parts of Serbia. This training includes both formal instruction and ongoing online support for educators throughout the duration of

the project. Consequently, the project entailsmore than just the donationof equipment; it also fosters the development of the knowledge and skills necessary for its effective use in daily work with children, in alignment with the "Years of Ascent programmatic framework.

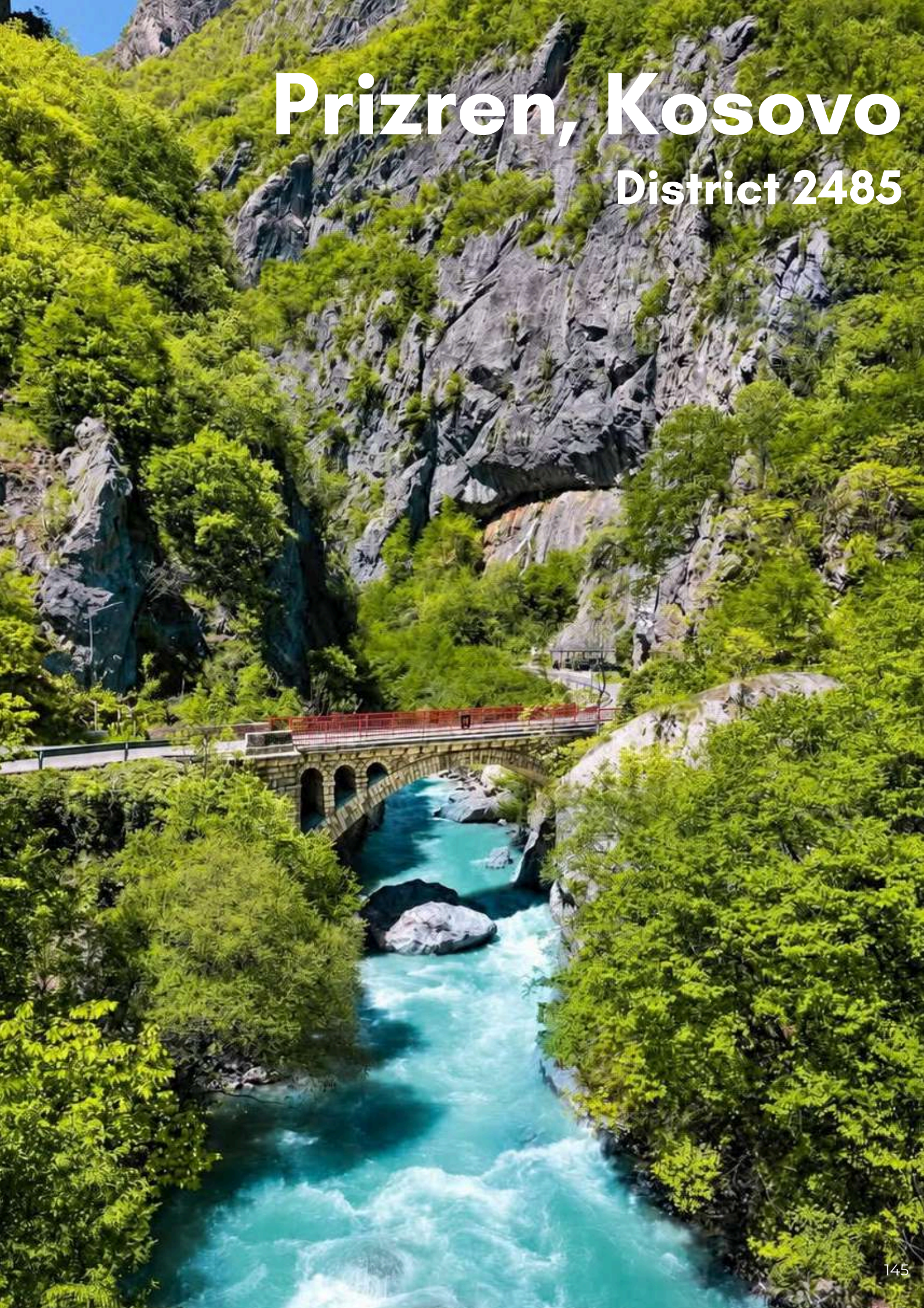
The implementation of the project and the handover of the donations were attended by seven Rotarians from Georgia, USA, who serve as key international partners in initiatives to equip preschools. Their involvement further underscores the importance of connecting local communities with international partners to achieve a shared goal: creatingbetter conditions for the upbringing and education of future generations.

Through the collaboration between Rotary Clubs, the Ministry of Education, and international partners, the "Years of Ascent" project continues to contribute to the development of preschool education in Serbia—driven by the conviction that investingin children, knowledge, and a high-quality educational environment is an investment in the future of society as a whole.









Prizren, Kosovo

District 2485

DPIC Nora Siqeca
District 2485 (Albania&Kosovo)



Caring for Women's Health Beyond October: A Rotary Initiative in Shkodër

Women's health deserves continuous attention, investment, and access to quality healthcare—not only during the month of October, but throughout the year.

Through the project "Caring for Women's Health, Today and Tomorrow," Rotary Club Shkodër, in collaboration with Rotary International, The Rotary Foundation, Rotary Club Austin, and Rotary District 2485 – Albania and Kosovo, is contributing to the improvement of healthcare services for women in Shkodër, Albania.

As part of this initiative, the donation of an ambulance and portable ultrasound equipment aims to strengthen local healthcare capacities and facilitate access to essential medical services. These resources will support healthcare professionals in bringing medical care closer to the community and responding more effectively to women's healthcare needs.

The project also extends beyond the provision of medical equipment. In cooperation with local healthcare institutions, the initiative will continue with free medical consultations and screenings for women, promoting early detection, prevention, and greater awareness of women's health.
This collaborative effort reflects Rotary's commitment to sustainable community development and improved access to healthcare. By bringing together Rotary clubs, The Rotary Foundation, and local institutions, the project demonstrates how partnerships can translate shared goals into meaningful, practical support for communities.

Rotary District 2485 expresses its appreciation to Rotary Club Shkodër, Rotary Club Austin, The Rotary Foundation, Rotary International, and the local healthcare institutions involved in making this initiative possible.

Because caring for women's health is not a seasonal commitment—it is a responsibility that continues every day.





Empower HER Expands Across Albania and Kosovo, Bringing Mentorship to Women Entrepreneurs in Every Rotary Community

A €100,000 initiative supporting women entrepreneurs in the Mitrovica region is set to become a District-wide movement, extending mentorship and business support to women in every city where a Rotary Club operates across Albania and Kosovo.

Launched by Rotary Club Prishtina, "Empower HER" provides women entrepreneurs with professional training, mentorship, and essential equipment to help them build sustainable businesses and achieve greater economic independence.

Now, through "Building George's Legacy: Empower HER," Rotary District 2485 plans to expand the programme's reach and support 10 women entrepreneurs in each Rotary community across the District.

Implemented by CECD Friends in partnership with Rotary Club Prishtina and Rotary Club Cambria, represented by George Poulakos, the initiative demonstrates how local action and strong Rotary partnerships can grow into a broader commitment with lasting economic and community impact.

Expanding the Impact Across Rotary District 2485

Building on the foundations established by the original project, Rotary District 2485 – Albania and Kosovo plans to expand the initiative across the District under the name "Building George's Legacy: Empower HER."

The District-wide initiative aims to provide mentorship to 10 women entrepreneurs in every city where a Rotary Club operates, extending the programme's reach and creating opportunities for women in communities across Albania and Kosovo

By connecting women entrepreneurs with mentors, practical guidance, and Rotary's local networks, the initiative seeks to encourage business development, strengthen entrepreneurial confidence, and contribute to more resilient local economies.

The expansion also reflects the importance of collaboration among Rotary clubs, community organisations, and partners who share a common vision: creating opportunities that enable individuals and communities to thrive.





Empower HER Expands Across Albania and Kosovo, Bringing Mentorship to Women Entrepreneurs in Every Rotary Community

Building a Legacy Through Sustainable Impact

"Empower HER" represents more than a single project. It reflects the potential of a local initiative to inspire a broader movement for economic empowerment and sustainable community development.

Through the District-wide expansion, Rotary District 2485 aims to build on the existing achievements of the project and create a lasting framework of support for women entrepreneurs. By investing in women's skills, ideas, and businesses, Rotary contributes to stronger communities and a more inclusive economic future.





One woman. One dream. One community. A legacy that continues to grow.

Through initiatives such as "Building George's Legacy: Empower HER," Rotary District 2485 reaffirms its commitment to turning partnerships into meaningful action and creating opportunities that make a lasting difference.





STRONGER TOGETHER FOR MOTHERS AND CHILDREN
Rotary District 2485 and AMC Partner to Expand the "Classes for Mothers" Programme in Kosovo

Rotary District 2485 – Albania and Kosovo, and Action for Mothers and Children (AMC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen and expand the "Classes for Mothers" programme in Kosovo, reinforcing their shared commitment to maternal and child health and the well-being of families. The agreement was signed by Florentina Dushi, Governor of Rotary District 2485, and Rina Demiri Spahija, Executive Director of AMC. It establishes a framework for cooperation between the two organisations and encourages Rotary clubs to engage in initiatives that respond to the needs of mothers and children in communities across Kosovo.

Reaching More Mothers Through Education and Support

Since 2015, the "Classes for Mothers" programme has supported more than 25,000 women, providing free education, counselling, and guidance during pregnancy and after childbirth.
Through this partnership, Rotary District 2485 and AMC aim to extend the program's reach, particularly in communities where access to information and support services remains limited. By encouraging Rotary clubs to participate in joint initiatives, the collaboration seeks to connect more women and families with valuable resources during pregnancy and early parenthood.

Turning Shared Priorities into Meaningful Action

Maternal and child health is one of Rotary International's key areas of focus. The partnership with AMC offers Rotary clubs an opportunity to translate this commitment into practical community action.

By combining AMC's experience and expertise with Rotary's network of clubs, local partnerships, and commitment to service, the two organisations aim to support initiatives that address community needs and contribute to healthier families.
The MoU provides a foundation for developing joint projects, mobilising Rotary club involvement, and encouraging sustainable initiatives tailored to local circumstances.

A Shared Vision for Healthier Communities

The agreement represents an important step towards strengthening cooperation between Rotary District 2485 and an organization dedicated to improving the health and well-being of mothers and children.
Through this collaboration, both organizations reaffirm their commitment to building stronger communities where mothers can access education, guidance, and support, and where children have a healthier start in life.
Together, for healthier mothers, healthier children, and a brighter future.
Service Above Self

STRONGER TOGETHER FOR MOTHERS AND CHILDREN
Rotary District 2485 and AMC Partner to Expand the "Classes for Mothers" Programme in Kosovo



Rotary Club Skodrin – A New Chapter of Service, Fellowship and Collaboration in Shkodër

In Shkodër, a city where history, culture and civic tradition come together to shape a distinctive identity, a new chapter in community engagement began with the official chartering of Rotary Club Skodrin. On 23 October 2026, the club officially joined Rotary District 2485 Albania & Kosovo with 15 charter members, marking an important milestone in the growth of the Rotary family and the strengthening of the spirit of service across the region.

This milestone represents more than the establishment of a new organisation; it marks the coming together of people united by a shared ideal: to serve, inspire and contribute to building stronger communities. With fresh energy, vision and civic commitment, Rotary Club Skodrin aims to build a bridge between Shkodër's rich cultural heritage and new opportunities for development, collaboration and positive social impact.

Under the leadership of its Charter President, Arben Haveri, the club seeks to connect the city's cultural heritage with a contemporary vision of community service and social development.

Two initiatives hold a special place in the club's vision: "Music Without Borders", which promotes inclusion, understanding and unity through music, and "Youth Shapes Culture", which focuses on empowering young people and encouraging their active participation in cultural and social life. These initiatives reflect the belief that culture and youth are essential drivers in building a more inclusive society.



In the spirit of Rotary fellowship and collaboration, the club has also established twinning relationships with Rotary Club Elbasan and Rotary Club Prizren. These partnerships provide a valuable foundation for sharing experiences, developing joint projects and strengthening connections between communities.

Rotary District 2485 congratulates Charter President Arben Haveri and all 15 charter members on this achievement, and extends its appreciation to District Governor Florentina Dushi and everyone who contributed to making the establishment of the club possible.

Welcome to the Rotary family, Rotary Club Skodrin! A new club, a shared vision and new opportunities to make a difference.



Rotaract

Districts 2420, 2430, 2440

ARPIC Cemre Başkır

RAC Ankara - Tandogan, D2430

Rotaract 2420, 2430, 2440



One Sip One Dip
Rotaract club of Dolmabahçe, D2420

As part of our One Sip One Dip project, we turned our route to Thailand this time. Through this project, which aims to discover different cultures through their cuisine, traditions, and everyday life, we came together to explore Thailand's vibrant and distinctive culinary culture.

Thai cuisine stands out with its unique balance of sweet, sour, spicy, and salty flavors coming together in the same dish, along with the generous use of fresh herbs and aromatic spices. From its renowned street food culture to traditional dining tables, food in Thailand is not simply a means of nourishment but also an important part of social life.

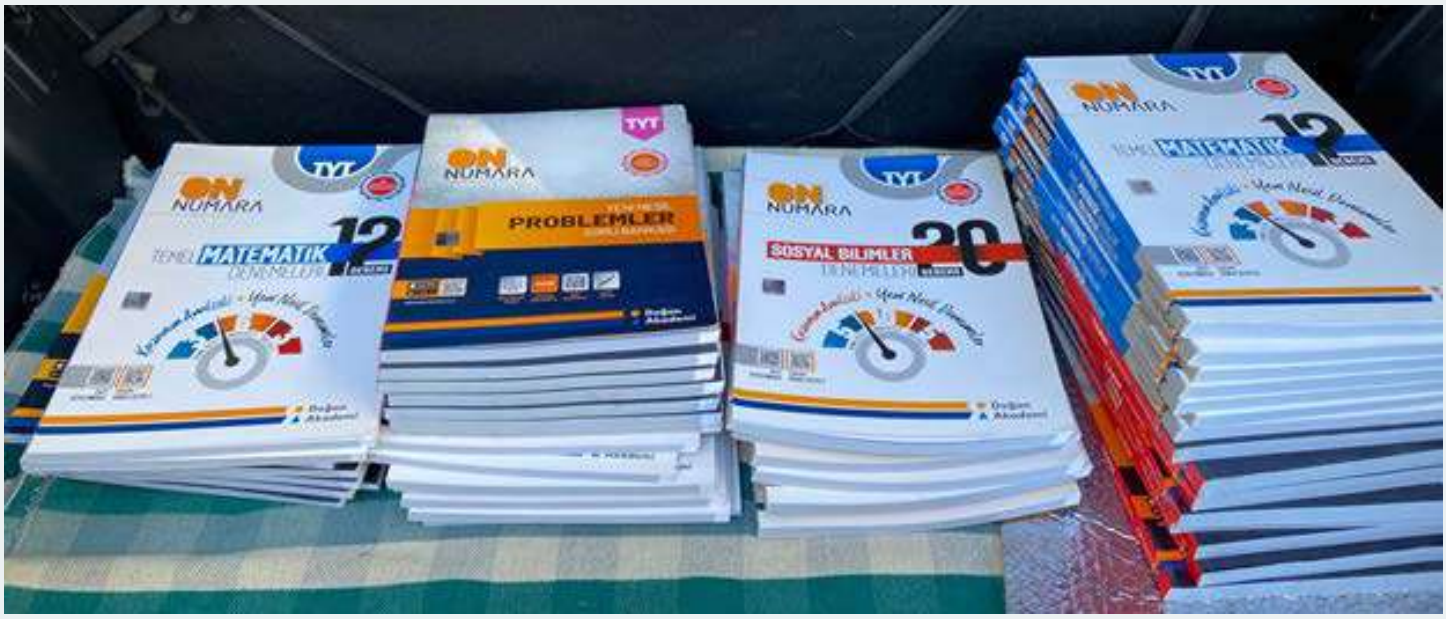
During our gathering, we had the opportunity to taste authentic Thai flavors while exchanging cultural insights and strengthening our fellowship in a warm and welcoming atmosphere.



On the Road to Success
Rotaract club of Etiler , D2420

Since the 2024–2025 term, Etiler Rotaract Club has been running the “On the Road to Success” project with the support of Zeynep Yetkin, who is currently the District Rotaract Representative. Through this project, we provide test preparation books to young people across Türkiye who are preparing for the university entrance exam.

We believe that education is the key to a better future. Every student deserves the chance to learn, improve their skills, and follow their dreams. However, not every student has access to the books and resources they need. Our goal is to support these students and help them continue their education with confidence and determination.





Film Club: Don't Look Up Rotaract club of Etiler, D2420

Etiler Rotaract Club held its traditional Film Club event with the movie Don't Look Up. The event was led by Dilara Yüksekbaş, a psychologist and one of the club's past presidents, and brought together 22 participants.



During the event, participants discussed the movie, its characters, and their feelings and thoughts about the story. With Dilara Yüksekbaş's guidance, they explored the characters' psychological journeys and shared their own ideas and experiences. The discussion also helped participants reflect on their feelings and gain a better understanding of themselves.

The Film Club aims to bring people together through movies and create a space for open and meaningful conversations.



Career Day
Rotaract club of Mersin, D2430

On 10 October 2026, we held Career Day at Garaj Kampüs, bringing together 28 university students to explore international education and career opportunities. In collaboration with Mersin Metropolitan Municipality Career Center, Garaj Mersin, Kampüs Mersin, and American Life Language Schools, we aimed to make practical career guidance more accessible to young people.



The programme covered preparing English CVs and cover letters, building LinkedIn profiles and portfolios, and navigating university applications abroad. Participants also explored postgraduate study, scholarship opportunities, and English language examinations such as TOEFL and IELTS. Interactive discussions and question-and-answer sessions allowed students to address their own interests and concerns.
To complement the sessions, we distributed sponsor-supported career kits to all 28 participants, containing maps, QR-linked resources, and motivational cards. Students marked their desired destinations on the maps, connecting their aspirations with the opportunities discussed. The digital resources provided material they could revisit while planning their next steps.



Through this initiative, we supported young people's access to information relevant to education and employment. By combining practical guidance, direct interaction, and take-home resources, we encouraged participants to approach their future plans with greater awareness of the pathways available to them.

As Akdeniz Rotaract Club, we carried out a comprehensive friendship and cultural exchange initiative with the Rotaract Club of Paris Ouest to strengthen international club relations and foster cultural interaction.

As part of the project, we exchanged club banners as a symbol of the friendship between our clubs. Our International Relations Committee Chair attended a meeting of the Rotaract Club of Paris Ouest, representing our club and helping to strengthen communication between the two clubs.

To support cultural exchange, we prepared reciprocal promotional brochures introducing Mersin and Paris in Turkish and French. The brochures featured the historical and touristic highlights, cultural heritage, local cuisine, and distinctive characteristics of our cities. We also prepared a special gift box reflecting the cultural richness of Mersin and Türkiye and sent it to the Rotaract Club of Paris Ouest.

Through this initiative, we went beyond establishing a symbolic bond between our clubs. Through face-to-face communication, cultural sharing, and mutual promotion, we strengthened our international friendship with concrete steps.









A Home for Wings
Rotaract club of Atakum, D2430

As Atakum Rotaract Club, we launched the "A Home for Wings" project to remind ourselves of our responsibility toward nature and all living beings, and to show that small gestures can make a big difference.

On 4 October, World Animal Day, we came together to paint birdhouses, adding our own touch with colourful designs. Each brushstroke reflected our love for nature, our desire to protect the habitats of living beings, and our hope for a more liveable world. On 11 October, we placed the birdhouses on the trees of Kent Ormanı (City Forest).

In this way, we did more than give birds a home. We reminded ourselves that we are part of nature and that protecting the world we share with other living beings is a responsibility we all carry. Protecting nature is possible not only through big steps but also through small ones taken with care. Providing a home for a bird, protecting a tree, and being mindful of the life around us are among the most valuable legacies we can leave for the future.

Through this project, we aimed to strengthen our bond with nature, draw attention to animal habitats, and raise environmental awareness in our community. We look forward to more colourful forests, safer homes, and a better future for all living beings, because this world is a shared home for those with wings as well.







Two Continents, One Purpose Rotaract club of Ankara Tandoğan , D2430

On October 4, 2026, World Animal Protection Day, as Ankara Tandoğan Rotaract Club, we brought the very first project of our international partnership with First Coast Rotaract Club in Florida to life.

When embarking on this collaboration, we had a single question in mind: Could we act together on the same day for the same purpose, despite the oceans between us? Our answer was a simultaneous shelter visit across two continents. The need of our four-legged friends in shelters for a warm home, care, and support is universal. Driven by this shared responsibility, we wanted to join forces.

Our club visited Patiliköy, providing blankets, toys, and food for our furry friends. We delivered supplies, spent quality time together, and shared in their unconditional love. On the very same day, across the ocean, First Coast Rotaract Club completed the American leg of this project by visiting the Animal Care & Protective Services shelter, donating blankets, and taking the dogs for walks. Knowing that, despite being in different time zones, we were serving the exact same purpose with the same passion was truly special.

For us, this project was much more than a shelter visit. It was a meaningful way to see how distances fade away in the face of a shared goal, reinforcing Rotaract's universal spirit of service through action. This was only the first step, and we believe there is much more to come.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to First Coast Rotaract Club for walking this journey with us.







Rotaract District 2420, 2430 & 2440
November 10, 10 Schools

Every year on November 10, Türkiye commemorates the passing of Gazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of the Republic of Türkiye, whose vision and principles continue to inspire generations.

To honor his memory and carry his legacy into the future, 70 Rotaract clubs from three districts (2420, 2430, and 2440) have united for the traditional “November 10, 10 Schools” project.

This meaningful initiative aims to introduce younger generations to Atatürk’s life, ideas, and values through the power of reading, transforming a national day of remembrance into a lasting educational contribution.

Building on the success of the previous year, when more than 5,000 books about Atatürk reached children, the participating clubs have set an even more ambitious goal for 2026: delivering 7,500 books to young readers.

Through voluntary contributions from participating clubs, book sets containing ten books about Atatürk will be distributed to children, creating opportunities for them to discover his legacy and understand the values that shaped modern Türkiye.

The project represents more than a book donation campaign. It demonstrates the power of inter-district collaboration, collective responsibility, and Rotaract’s commitment to education and youth development.

As part of this collective effort, Rotaract District 2440 proudly joins Districts 2420 and 2430 in supporting a shared mission that brings together 70 clubs, demonstrating how collaboration across districts can turn remembrance into meaningful and lasting impact.

70 clubs, three districts, one shared purpose: keeping Atatürk’s legacy alive through 7,500 books and inspiring the generations of tomorrow.



Buluşma: Prusa – Türkiye Rotaract Conference Rotaract club of Bursa, D2440

From October 16 to 18, 2026, the Türkiye Rotaract Conference, “Buluşma: Prusa,” brought together Rotaractors from Districts 2420, 2430, and 2440 in Bursa, Türkiye. Hosted by the Rotaract Club of Bursa in partnership with Rotaract District 2440, the three-day gathering celebrated friendship, cultural exchange, and the shared commitment to service that connects Rotaract clubs across the country.

The conference took its name from Prusa, the historical name of Bursa, and embraced the theme “Where Paths from the Past to the Future Meet.” With its centuries-old heritage and rich traditions, Bursa provided a meaningful setting for young people from different cities to discover common ground and build connections for the future.

The program opened with cultural visits to Aktopraklık and Gölyazı, allowing participants to explore the region before coming together for a shared dinner and a welcoming social evening. These moments offered opportunities to reconnect with friends, meet fellow Rotaractors, and experience the warmth of the host city.

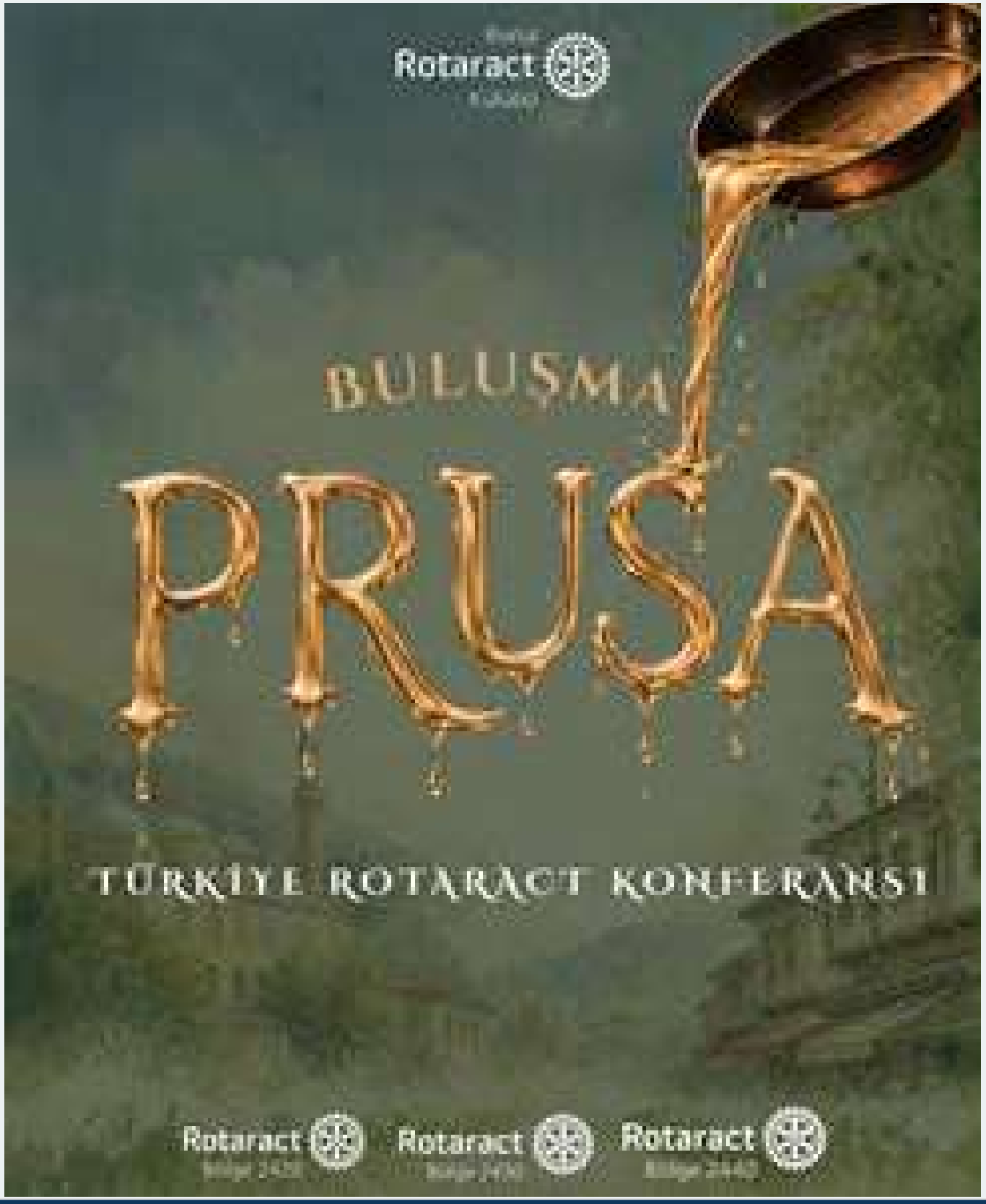
On the second day, participants explored Bursa through three themed routes: Historic Bursa, Blue Bursa, and Green Bursa. The itineraries introduced different sides of the city, from architectural landmarks and traditional neighborhoods to coastal landscapes and natural scenery. The day continued with a gala evening, bringing Rotaractors together to celebrate their shared identity and the friendships formed across districts.

Conference gatherings, speeches, and moments of recognition further reflected the dedication of the organizing team and the value of bringing clubs together. Beyond the scheduled activities, the event created space for exchanging experiences, strengthening inter-district communication, and opening the door to future partnerships and joint service initiatives.



Buluşma: Prusa was more than a three-day meeting. It was a reminder that Rotaract grows stronger when people from different communities come together, learn from one another, and turn new relationships into lasting cooperation. Through the collective spirit of Districts 2420, 2430, and 2440, the conference connected Bursa's heritage with a shared vision for the future.

Three districts, one meeting point: celebrating our heritage, strengthening our friendships, and creating lasting impact together.



Republic Day Reception – Celebrating the 103rd Anniversary of the Republic of Türkiye Rotaract District 2440 & Interact District 2440

On October 29, 2026, Rotaract District 2440 and Interact District 2440 came together to celebrate the 103rd anniversary of the Republic of Türkiye with a special Republic Day Reception, honoring the legacy of Gazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk and the values upon which the Republic was founded.

October 29 marks one of the most significant milestones in Türkiye's history. The proclamation of the Republic in 1923, under Atatürk's leadership, represented a new era built upon national sovereignty, independence, equality, and progress. Bringing together members of the Rotary, Rotaract, and Interact families, the reception created a meaningful atmosphere of unity, remembrance, and celebration. The evening emphasized the responsibility of younger generations to preserve the principles of the Republic and carry its values into the future.

The program featured speeches by district representatives and distinguished guests, including journalist and author Tayfur Göçmenoğlu and Ufuk Yıldırım, representing the Atatürkist Thought Association. Their contributions highlighted the historical significance of the Republic, Atatürk's enduring legacy, and the importance of passing these values on to future generations.

Art and cultural expression played an important role throughout the evening. A remarkable wheelchair dance performance celebrated inclusion, equality, and the universal language of art, while a special waltz performance prepared jointly by Rotaract and Interact members reflected harmony, collaboration, and the spirit of the Republic.

Beyond commemorating a historical milestone, the reception demonstrated the strength of cooperation between Rotaract and Interact, bringing different generations together through shared values, creativity, and a commitment to building a brighter future.

Through this celebration, Rotaract District 2440 and Interact District 2440 reaffirmed their dedication to keeping Atatürk's vision alive, promoting unity, and inspiring young people to take an active role in shaping the future.

103 years of the Republic, generations united by one shared legacy: honoring the past, celebrating the present, and carrying the light of the Republic into the future.





Rotaract

Districts 2452, 2475, 2482, 2483, 2485

ARPIC Foteini Papadimou

RC Panorama, D2475

Rotaract 2452, 2475, 2482, 2483, 2485



Rotaract Assembly - Rotary District 2482, Bulgaria

On October 24, Stara Zagora brought together Rotaractors from over 10 clubs for the Rotaract Assembly in Rotary District 2482.

Alexander Petrov, Governor of D2482, highlighted the importance of Rotary and Rotaract working together in his speech.

The program continued with the sharing of best practices and successful projects from the past year.

Rotaract Club Karnobat told about their initiative "Together for an Equal Start," **RAC Ruse** presented a short film on electric scooter safety, and **RAC Sofia** showcased their project "Emotions Without a Mask."

Our special guests from the neighboring District 2483 , led by DRR Kristina Zejak, also presented their projects.

The highlight of the day was the discussion regarding a future national initiative for Rotaract clubs. Each club presented its idea, followed by questions, suggestions, and a great deal of enthusiasm. It will become clear next month which of these ideas will unite all the clubs in the district, once the initiative is selected.

The Rotaractors left Stara Zagora with new friendships, fresh ideas, and a desire for further collaboration.

Thank you everyone who took part in the assembly - stay tuned for updates on the national initiative!

Charity Book Bazaar with Rotaract Club Bansko-Razlog

For the first time, Rotaract Club Bansko-Razlog organized a book drive and a charity bazaar. Between September 15 and October 9, books were collected at several designated points in the towns of Bansko and Razlog. The collected books were then displayed at a charity bazaar held on October 17 in front of Café "Trendy" in Razlog.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the initiative. The fund raised will be used to support local schools. Additionally, the children's books collected were submitted in support of local schools and kindergartens in the town of Razlog, as well as in the villages of Dolno Draglishte and Eleshnitsa.

"Together for an Equal Start" by Rotaract Club Karnobat

Rotaract Club Karnobat has rallied behind an initiative to support children in need providing the supplies for a successful start to the school year for 13 first-graders in the town. "We prepared backpacks filled with everything necessary for a successful start—because sometimes a backpack is the first step, a small gesture of support, and a reminder that every child deserves a chance," the Rotaractors shared on their social media profile.







Rotary Zone 21b

CREATE LASTING IMPACT

District Governors' Corner

Shaping the Future and Creating a "Lasting Impact" Is in Our Hands!

Dear Rotary Family, Club Presidents, and Fellow Rotarians,

As we leave behind the wonderful enthusiasm and fellowship of October, we enter **Rotary Foundation Month**, celebrating the very heart of Rotary and our greatest resource for touching lives. Our Foundation is the strongest pillar supporting the sustainability of every act of kindness and every project we undertake.

Guided by this year's vision, **"Create a Lasting Impact,"** we look beyond the immediate outcomes of our projects to consider how deeply and enduringly they benefit society. As the **Rotary International District 2420 family**, our goal this month is not simply to make donations, but to turn our power to transform the world and shape our future into lasting achievements through our Foundation.

I firmly believe that you and your clubs will advance our Foundation goals and deliver sustainable projects in line with our vision for this year. Throughout November, I invite all our clubs to create a lasting impact through the following concrete steps:

· **100% EREY (Every Rotarian, Every Year)** Goal: We aim for our clubs to achieve 100% EREY status and strengthen our global funding through a minimum contribution of USD 30–100 from each member to our Foundation this month.



Erden Gökmen
District Governor, District 2420
2026–2027

· **Paul Harris Fellows**: I encourage our clubs to prioritize matching contributions this month to recognize new Paul Harris Fellows (PHFs) and leave a lasting legacy.
· **PolioPlus (End Polio Now)**: We are very close to fulfilling our promise to eradicate polio worldwide. By allocating a portion of the proceeds from your November events to the PolioPlus Fund, you can help secure a lasting victory for humanity.

🕊️ **The Power of Our Regional Funds: Taking Action for Peace and the Environment**

As we pursue our global goals this month, our contributions to two vital funds bearing our district's signature will help make our local and regional impact endure.

Shaping the Future and Creating a "Lasting Impact" Is in Our Hands!

1. **Örsçelik Balkan Peace Fund**
Established to honor the name and vision of the late **Örsçelik Balkan, the first Turkish Director in Rotary International's history and a Trustee of The Rotary Foundation**, this fund is a vital resource for **Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention**, one of Rotary's key areas of focus. Every contribution you make to this fund to strengthen dialogue, youth leadership, and a culture of peace in our region will help build an enduring bridge of understanding across borders and create a lasting impact.

2. **Marmara Environmental Fund**
We must increase our support for the **Marmara Environmental Fund** to protect the ecological balance of the Marmara Sea, the heart of our region, and build a sustainable future. Our contributions to this fund will bring to life projects addressing climate change, cleaner seas, and biodiversity conservation. Let us remember that leaving a lasting, positive mark on the natural world is our greatest responsibility to future generations.

🇹🇷 THE SPIRIT OF OCTOBER: THE OCTOBER 29 REPUBLIC DAY MARCH AND REPUBLIC BALL

As we focus on our goals for November, I cannot help but reflect on the tremendous unity we demonstrated as District 2420 throughout October.
Joining the **October 29 Republic Day March**, with our flags in our hands and Rotary emblems proudly displayed, was a historic moment in which we connected with our community and expressed our unwavering commitment to the values of the Republic.

The traditional Republic Ball, held on October 30 following the march, will remain in our memories as one of the most unforgettable and widely celebrated events of our year, distinguished by its elegance, joy, and the strong spirit of fellowship among our clubs. I sincerely thank all my fellow Rotarians and club presidents who helped create and share in this celebration. The light of our Republic will continue to illuminate our journey to **create a lasting impact** through our projects.

🖤 NOVEMBER 10: REMEMBERING ATATÜRK WITH RESPECT AND DEEP LONGING

For us, November is more than a month of service; it is also a time of remembrance and renewed determination, when we reaffirm our gratitude to our greatest guide.
On November 10, the **anniversary of the passing of Gazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk**, the founder of the modern Republic of Türkiye and our Great Leader, I once again bow in respect before his cherished memory on behalf of the District 2420 family. I also extend my appreciation in advance to all our clubs organizing commemorative events.
Rotary's ideals of service closely reflect Atatürk's words, "*Those who wish to serve the nation must, above all, put aside their own self-interest,*" as well as this year's motto, "*Create a Lasting Impact*."

Shaping the Future and Creating a "Lasting Impact" Is in Our Hands!

The foundations he laid and the reforms he introduced represent the greatest and most enduring impact on this land. We will continue along the path of modern civilization he opened for us, guided by science and education, and work tirelessly to develop sustainable projects that carry our country toward a brighter future.

NOVEMBER 24, TEACHERS' DAY: TORCHBEARERS LIGHTING THE FUTURE

In this meaningful month, when Atatürk accepted the title of Head Teacher, I extend my warmest wishes in advance to all teachers who touch our lives and transform our communities on **November 24, Teachers' Day.**
Head Teacher Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's words, "Teachers, the new generation will be your creation," also express the guiding philosophy behind our work in **Rotary's Basic Education and Literacy area of focus**. Supporting education and educators is one of the most fundamental ways to create a lasting impact on society. I sincerely hope our clubs will develop projects for teachers on this meaningful occasion and accelerate their efforts to support schools and education, leaving an enduring legacy in the spirit of this Rotary year.

His ideas, reforms, and vision will live forever in our hearts and in our work. May he rest in peace.

NOVEMBER 25: "WE ARE GOING TO ATATÜRK" PROJECT
We express our unwavering commitment to the founder of our Republic and our belief in his vision of modern civilization through our actions as well as in our hearts.

On November 25, as part of one of our district's most meaningful events this month, we will gather as the **District 2420 family at Anıtkabir to pay our respects to Atatürk.**
With strong participation from our clubs, young people, and Rotaractors—and, most importantly, with your contributions—the **"We Are Going to Atatürk" project** will bring children who have never visited Anıtkabir to this special place. This official visit will be a meaningful gathering at which we renew our promise to uphold Atatürk's reforms and leave a lasting legacy for the future.

With Rotary Love and Respect,
Erden Gökmen
Governor, District 2420
2026–2027

Monthly Message – November 2026



Orhan Uludağ
Governor 2026-2027
RI District 2430 - Turkiye

Dear Rotary Family,

As we leave October behind, the energy, solidarity, and enthusiasm for service demonstrated by our clubs bring us great joy. The busy period of projects and activities that began in September has continued to gain momentum throughout October. We are experiencing a period in which our clubs are engaging with their communities, our members are actively taking on responsibilities, and Rotary's commitment to service is making a meaningful difference in many areas of life.

Our Club Visits Are Complete, but Our Journey of Service Continues

We have now completed our club visits across Türkiye and Azerbaijan since the beginning of our Rotary year. These visits have been invaluable opportunities to get to know our clubs more closely, listen to their goals, evaluate their projects, and shape our shared future together. The friendship, dedication, and enthusiasm for service that I witnessed in every club were among the clearest indicators of the tremendous potential of District 2430.

The initiatives being carried out in areas ranging from education and the environment to youth development and healthcare have once again demonstrated how valuable a force Rotary is for our communities.

I believe the experiences gained during these visits will contribute to stronger projects and a more effective district structure in the months ahead. Our priority now is to turn the goals we have established into tangible results and channel the energy of our clubs into creating a lasting impact in our communities.

World Polio Day: Rotary's Promise to Humanity

One of the most important highlights of October was the series of activities organized by our clubs in observance of World Polio Day on October 24. Rotary's fight to eradicate polio from the world is one of the strongest examples of our international commitment to service. This long-standing effort has helped millions of children look forward to a healthier future.

The activities organized by our clubs to raise awareness of polio, inform the public, and support fundraising efforts are important demonstrations of our shared commitment to this global goal. There is still work to be done before polio can be completely eradicated. Therefore, every Rotarian has a responsibility to raise awareness and support this vital mission.

October 29: Moving Forward with the Values of Our Republic
As we celebrate Republic Day on October 29, we respectfully remember Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of our Republic, and all the heroes who fought for our independence, with gratitude and reverence.

The Republic is founded on reason, science, modernization, equal opportunity, and confidence in the future. These values strongly align with Rotary's commitment to education, peace, community development, and service to humanity.
It is especially important that all our clubs participate in Republic Day celebrations, commemorate this meaningful occasion with enthusiasm, uphold our shared values, and set an example for our communities. Protecting the achievements of our Republic and passing them on to future generations is a shared responsibility for us all.

Let Us Work Together and Come Together at District Meetings
With the arrival of October, educational and professional development activities across our district have also gained momentum. The launch of our Live Club Seminars and Rota Academy meetings plays an important role in enhancing our clubs' knowledge and experience, helping our members gain a deeper understanding of Rotary, and strengthening our capacity for service.
I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our District Training Leader and Past District Governor, Teoman Kaynar, for meticulously coordinating these meetings and overseeing all the necessary preparations.

I see these meetings not merely as training activities, but as interactive platforms that foster collective thinking, generate new ideas, and strengthen the bonds between our clubs. **Strong, active, and meaningful participation in our district meetings is one of the most important elements of this collaboration.** I invite all our clubs and members to participate actively in these initiatives.

These meetings are valuable opportunities not only to **share knowledge,** but also to strengthen our friendships, develop new projects, l**earn from one another,** and expand Rotary's collective impact. Every idea contributed, every experience shared, and every new connection established helps District 2430 grow. The more we come together, the more we learn the more we collaborate, the greater the impact we create.

The Zone meeting themed "Roots & Wings" and titled "Public Image & Rotaract Summit," held in Samsun under the leadership of Zone Coordinator Stoyanka Georgieva, was the first international meeting hosted in our district during this Rotary year. I would like to thank all our friends who participated in and contributed to this successful event.

In our membership development efforts, our primary goal is not only to welcome new members but also to strengthen the sense of belonging among our existing members and ensure that everyone has a meaningful role within their club. Making the most of every Rotarian's knowledge, experience, and talents, while encouraging members to take active

responsibility in projects, is fundamental to building sustainable clubs.

Our youth initiatives are an integral part of this approach. We must support the energy, ideas, and leadership potential of our Interact and Rotaract clubs, seeing young people not merely as the Rotarians of tomorrow, but as our partners in service today.

Strengthening our Rotary Foundation activities, fostering a culture of giving, and developing sustainable projects that reach more people must also remain among our priorities. By making more effective use of the opportunities offered by our Foundation, we can achieve lasting results at both local and international levels.

Another issue I would particularly like to emphasize during this Rotary year is i**ncreasing collaboration among our clubs.** Each of our clubs has its own experiences, strengths, and resources. When we bring these together, we can develop more comprehensive projects, reach more people, and use our resources far more efficiently. A successful project implemented by one club can serve as an example for others. A project carried out jointly can multiply the success of everyone involved.
For this reason, I encourage our clubs to develop projects together, share their experiences, and support one another's initiatives.
During the remainder of our Rotary year, let us unite the energy of our clubs around our common goals and create more opportunities for our young people, members, and volunteers. Let us draw inspiration from one another's achievements and undertake even more ambitious projects.

Let us ensure that the guiding principle of our Rotary year, "**Create Lasting Impac**t," inspires everything we do. Let us strive to ensure that every event we organize and every project we complete brings about positive change in people's lives.

Through all our efforts, let us make Rotary far more visible in our communities, in the media, in our everyday surroundings, and throughout the international Rotary community.

Together, through friendship, collaboration, and service, we can create a lasting impact and build a stronger future for District 2430.

With my warmest Rotary regards,

Orhan Uludağ
2026-2027 Governor,
District 2430

OCTOBER – COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MONTH



Aylin Olut Ötken,
Governor 2026-2027
RI District 2440 - Turkiye

Dear Rotary Family,

October is Community Economic Development Month in Rotary. It offers an important opportunity to consider the needs of the communities in which we live and how we can respond to them.

When we speak of economic development, growth, production and investment are often the first things that come to mind. Yet economic growth in a country does not necessarily mean that the lives of everyone living there improve to the same extent. The United Nations Development Programme's approach to human development draws attention to this distinction: development is centred on the choices available to people and their freedom to realise those choices. The question, therefore, is not simply how much an economy grows, but what that growth changes in people's lives.

Looking at Türkiye, we see figures that deserve serious reflection. According to June 2026 data from the Turkish Statistical Institute (TÜİK), the employment rate among people aged 15 and over was 48.9%. The rate was 32.0% for women, compared with 66.1% for men. We still have a considerable way to go in increasing women's participation in economic life.

The situation for young people is also concerning. According to OECD data for 2024, 31.3% of people aged 18–24 in Türkiye were not in employment, education or training (NEET). Among young women, the figure reached 41.6%. In other words, almost one in three young people was outside education and working life; among young women, the proportion exceeded four in ten. These figures point to a challenge that demands our close attention.

Moreover, education does not always make the transition into employment easier. According to the OECD's Education at a Glance 2025 report, the unemployment rate among 25- to 34-year-olds in Türkiye was 11.2% for those with less than upper secondary education, compared with 10.6% among higher education graduates.

Behind these figures are young people struggling to continue their education, women who wish to work but cannot find opportunities, and people trying to adapt to changing technology.

They also represent entrepreneurs with good ideas but no access to knowledge, capital or the right connections, and families struggling to offer their children better opportunities because of economic circumstances.

A diploma is valuable, but we also need to build a strong bridge between education and employment. We should help young people complement their education with the skills required by a changing world, become familiar with the world of work and gain professional experience.
As Rotarians, we have a wealth of knowledge and experience that can help meet these needs. Our clubs bring together people from different professions who understand the business world and the needs of their communities. One of the most valuable resources we can share is the knowledge and experience of our members.

We can continue supporting a young person who has received a scholarship as they make the transition from education into employment, helping them build their future through mentoring, internships and work experience. We can complement vocational training for women with digital skills and support in accessing markets, making it easier for them to earn a regular income. We can reinforce the equipment we provide to small entrepreneurs with financial literacy, business development and marketing knowledge. When assessing the success of these efforts, we should look not only at how many people we have reached, but also at the outcomes achieved. The question 'What has changed in the lives of the people we have reached?' should guide our projects. Tracking whether vocational training leads to employment, whether the enterprises we support remain viable and whether women can earn a regular income helps us understand the real impact of our work. It also enables us to use our resources more effectively and build future projects on what we have learnt.

Dear Rotary Family,

We are an organisation capable of bringing together different professions, experiences and people around solutions. This October, I invite our clubs to look at their communities through a slightly different lens and apply their collective strengths to local needs.
Reaching young people who are outside education and employment, understanding the barriers faced by women who want to work, and listening to the needs of local producers and small entrepreneurs would be good starting points. Partnerships with businesses, educational institutions, local authorities and civil society organisations can help us respond more effectively to these needs.

True development means enabling more people to benefit from the opportunities created by a growing economy. As Rotarians, our contribution should be to turn our knowledge and experience into opportunities that enable people to shape their own futures. When we help a young person take their first step into working life, a woman gain economic independence or a small business stay afloat, our call to 'Create Lasting Impact' takes on real meaning in everyday life.

With warm Rotary regards,

Aylin Olut Ötken,
Governor 2026–2027,
Rotary District 2440

October – Economic and Community Development Month



Dear Fellow Rotarians,

October reminds us that one of Rotary's greatest responsibilities is to empower communities to build a better, more sustainable future. Designated by Rotary International as Economic and Community Development Month, this is an opportunity to reflect on how our service can create economic opportunities, strengthen local communities, and improve lives in lasting ways.

Economic development is not simply about creating jobs or increasing income; it is about giving people the opportunity to live with dignity, independence, and hope. It means supporting local entrepreneurs, empowering women and young professionals, developing vocational skills, promoting financial literacy, and helping vulnerable communities become more self-reliant.

Across our nine-country District 2452, our communities face different challenges, yet they share a common need: opportunities that transform lives and create lasting impact. Through our clubs' initiatives, partnerships with local organizations, and collaboration with the public and private sectors, we can turn these needs into meaningful and sustainable solutions.

As we embrace this month, I encourage every Rotary and Rotaract club to ask a simple but powerful question: How can our service help people become not only recipients of assistance, but active participants in their own development?

Let us invest in people, nurture young talent, support small businesses, encourage innovation, and equip our communities with the skills needed to face tomorrow's challenges. Let us also explore how technology and artificial intelligence can open new doors to education, entrepreneurship, and employment, while always keeping humanity at the heart of progress.

These efforts reflect our District theme, "Lead with Impact – Serve with Passion," and reinforce Rotary International's message, "Create Lasting Impact." True impact is achieved when our projects go beyond immediate relief and create opportunities that continue to benefit people long after our direct involvement has ended.

Fellow Rotarians, let us work together to build stronger communities, foster economic resilience, and ensure that the benefits of development reach those who need them most.

When we empower people, we strengthen communities. When we strengthen communities, we create lasting impact.

May Monla Chmaitilly
District Governor 2026–2027
Rotary District 2452

New members - Renewing Hope

Dear Rotary friends,

Every new Rotary year brings a moment that is quiet yet deeply meaningful. It is the moment when we look around and recognize that the future of our Club, our District, and even our mission does not depend only on what we have already built, but also on those who are now taking their first steps alongside us: our new members. They bring a fresh perspective, a new sense of compassion, and renewed hope.

Welcoming a new member to Rotary is not a formality. It is a promise of renewal. It reminds us that the idea of service remains alive, compelling, and necessary. In a world that often favors the temporary, the individual, and the fast, choosing to join a community dedicated to service carries special significance. It means that somewhere deep within, a person still believes the world can become a better place when people choose to act together.

New members do more than strengthen our Clubs numerically. They remind us why we joined in the first place. They renew our own faith and help us see Rotary through the eyes of people who are discovering it, feeling inspired by it, and searching for purpose. This renewal is precious. A community stays alive not through memory alone, but through the generosity to open its doors, welcome others, pass on its values, and evolve. This year's theme, Create Lasting Impact, takes on special meaning when we speak



Charalampos Tinginagkas
Governor 2026-2027
RI District 2475 - Greece

about new members. Lasting impact comes not only from the projects we carry out, but also from the people we inspire to continue that work when we have stepped aside. It comes from building not only initiatives, but also continuity.

It comes when we invite people not merely to participate, but to belong—to put down roots and feel that here is a place where service meets dignity, friendship meets purpose, and individual journeys take on a shared meaning.

The theme of mobilization that guides our year often begins with just such an encounter: the moment someone feels seen, invited, and trusted.

New members - Renewing Hope

Mobilization is when intention meets action. It is the starting point; lasting impact is the destination. And often, the first spark is lit by a simple human gesture: an invitation, a conversation, a sincere welcome, or the feeling that "we've been waiting for you."

Perhaps this is one of our most meaningful responsibilities: not simply to seek new members, but to recognize people who are looking for a way to give greater meaning to their abilities, their time, their experience, and their compassion. There are many such people.

What matters is creating spaces where they can connect meaningfully with our mission—not feel that they are entering an organization, but joining a living community: a global family of people of action, bringing together friendship and integrity, understanding and collaboration, local service and a global outlook.

Renewal, of course, is never one-sided. New members are not the only ones who change when they join Rotary; we change, too. We learn to listen to different voices, understand the community's changing needs, and see our communities with a more open mind. We come to understand that continuity is not repetition, but creative growth. When a Club welcomes new people with genuine interest, it does more than grow. It breathes anew.

Here lies the deeper connection between hope and renewal. Hope is not an abstract idea or something we simply wish for. Hope becomes real when we create opportunities for people to take part—when we make room for new generations, new professional and social experiences, people who may have been watching from a distance until now, but are ready to take that first step. Every new member is an expression of confidence in the future. Every Club that knows how to embrace that confidence becomes a source of living hope for its community.

Let us remember that our most powerful invitation to a prospective member is not what we say, but the example we set: how we speak to one another, how we work together, and how we serve quietly but consistently. People are drawn to communities where service is genuine, friendship is sincere, and purpose is clear. If we want to welcome people who will renew Rotary, we must first live Rotary in a way that inspires them.

That is why the presence of new members in our Clubs is more than a sign of growth. It is a sign of life. It shows that the spirit of Rotary continues to speak to people's hearts; that the desire to serve has not faded; and that the need for community, collaboration, and meaningful action remains strong. In these times, that alone is reason for optimism.

Let us welcome every new member not only with joy, but also with a sense of responsibility, knowing that they hold a part of our shared future in their hands. Let us give them room to express themselves, contribute, and dream alongside us.

When someone finds in Rotary a place where they can serve with sincerity, it is not only the Club that is renewed. Hope itself is renewed—the hope that when people unite around a purpose, they can truly create a lasting impact.

And that is a hope worth nurturing together.

Charalampos Tinginagkas
Governor 2026-2027
RI District 2475 - Greece

Alexander Petrov, Governor 2026-2027, District 2482

Trust Turns Giving into Change



Dear fellow Rotarians, Rotaractors and Interactors,

Today, 1 November, we celebrate the Day of the National Awakeners – a day dedicated to those who, through knowledge, courage and dedication, preserved Bulgaria's spiritual heritage and paved the way for its future. Happy holiday to all those who continue to inspire, educate and serve society through their personal example!

November is Rotary Foundation Month – a time to recognise one of the greatest strengths of our organisation and a testament to how trust, generosity and collective effort can transform lives. For more than a century, The Rotary Foundation has turned our desire to serve into meaningful support for people and communities around the world. It reminds us that behind every contribution lies trust, and behind every successful project lies the responsibility to honour that trust.

The Rotary Foundation enables us to go beyond the capabilities of an individual club and transform a local idea into a project with lasting impact. Rotary International President Olayinka Babalola reminds us that genuine change should continue to benefit communities long after a project has been completed. Jennifer Jones, Chair of The Rotary Foundation Trustees, emphasises that sometimes the most valuable assistance is not one-off support, but the opportunity for people to build a better future for themselves. This is the true purpose of giving: creating sustainable solutions that make a lasting difference in people's lives.

During this Rotary year, I am setting a specific goal for all of us: by 30 June 2027, there should be no club in District 2482 Bulgaria without a contribution to The Rotary Foundation – no Non-Giving Club.

I firmly believe this goal is entirely achievable when every club recognises its role in our shared mission. It is not about the size of the contribution, but about participation, commitment and belonging to the worldwide Rotary family. Let us encourage individual giving, raise greater awareness of the opportunities offered by The Rotary Foundation, and make effective use of District and Global Grants to deliver meaningful projects with long-term results.

October was another busy month filled with friendship and fellowship. I had the

pleasure of meeting friends from Rotary Clubs Dupnitsa, Kyustendil, Panagyurishte, Stara Zagora–Beroe, Chirpan, Pazardzhik, Karlovo, Stara Zagora, Radnevo, Nova Zagora, Pirdop, Kazanlak, Plovdiv–Philippopol, Plovdiv–International, Pernik, Plovdiv–Puldin, Mezdra and Kozloduy. Particularly memorable were the celebrations marking the 10th anniversary of the Satellite Rotary Club of Pavlikeni, held on 24 October – World Polio Day – and the 25th anniversary of Rotary Club Troyan. My sincere thanks to everyone for their warm hospitality, open conversations and shared ideas. Every meeting gives me another reason to believe in the strength of our District.

Last month, I also took part in the Interact and Rotaract assemblies, where I experienced first-hand the energy and enthusiasm of our younger friends. From 2 to 8 November, we celebrate World Interact Week, recognising the students who have chosen to dedicate part of their time and efforts to volunteering and serving their communities. Their example reminds us that the future of Rotary depends not only on what we do today, but also on the values we pass on to the next generation.

From 13 to 15 November, we look forward to the “Vibrant Club” Seminar in Arbanasi – an opportunity to discuss club development, fellowship, continuity and the future of Rotary. A vibrant club is measured not simply by its membership numbers or the projects it delivers, but by the willingness of its members to remain active, take responsibility and serve together.

Dear friends,
This Rotary year, we are moving towards the twentieth anniversary of District 2482 Bulgaria. Twenty years during which generations of Rotarians have given their time, knowledge, resources and hearts. Our predecessors have left us a legacy built through hard work and dedication. Our responsibility is not only to preserve it, but also to build upon it.

As we enter November, let us remember that giving is more than an act of generosity. It is an expression of our trust in people and in our collective ability to make the world a better place.

Because the true value of a contribution is not measured by what we give away, but by the good it makes possible.
Let us continue to serve with responsibility, give with trust and leave a lasting legacy.

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Yours in Rotary,
Alexander Petrov
Governor 2026–2027
RI District 2482 Bulgaria

Dear Fellow Rotarians, Rotaracts and Interacts

When we think of Rotary, what comes to mind? Perhaps it is a community transformed, a child given new opportunities, a family receiving support, or the joy of knowing that our efforts have made someone's life a little better. To me, this is the true heart of Rotary: people who care enough to make a difference.

November is a special month in our Rotary calendar, as we celebrate The Rotary Foundation, one of the greatest expressions of our commitment to service and humanitarian action. Through the Foundation, our generosity is transformed into action, our dreams become projects, and our shared values create meaningful change in the lives of people around the world.

Behind every contribution lies a story. A community gains access to clean water. A child receives an opportunity to learn. A family benefits from better healthcare. A young person discovers the power of peace and understanding. These are not simply projects or statistics; they are lives changed, opportunities created, and hope restored.

Every contribution matters. Every act of generosity carries hope. And each of us has the power to make a difference.

At times, we may wonder whether our individual efforts are enough to change the world. The answer lies in the spirit of Rotary. One person can plant a seed, but together we can grow a forest. One club can initiate a project, but together we can transform communities. When we bring together our hearts, talents, and



Florentina Dushi
Governor 2026–2027
RI District 2485 Albania & Kosovo

resources, even the smallest contribution can become part of something extraordinary.
ree future. But our work is not finished.

As District Governor, I encourage every Rotary, Rotaract, and Interact club to make November a time of renewed commitment to The Rotary Foundation. Let us share its impact, inspire generosity, and encourage every member to take part in its mission.

Giving is not measured by money alone; we also give our time, knowledge, compassion, and willingness to stand beside those who need us.

Whether we are experienced Rotarians, Rotaractors bringing fresh ideas and energy, or Interactors discovering the joy of service, we all belong to this mission, and together we are stronger. Our generations may bring different experiences and perspectives, but we share the same belief: that through service, we can make the world a better place.

generations may bring different experiences and perspectives, but we share the same belief: that through service, we can make the world a better place.

Dear fellow members, the world will always face challenges, but it will always need people who choose to bring hope. Let us be those people. Let us go beyond words and turn our good intentions into meaningful action. We may never meet everyone whose lives we touch, but somewhere, someone will have a brighter future because we chose to care.
This November, let us remember that the true measure of our success is not what we collect or the recognition we receive, but the lives we touch, the opportunities we create, and the hope we leave behind. Let us make generosity our habit, service our promise, and hope our legacy.

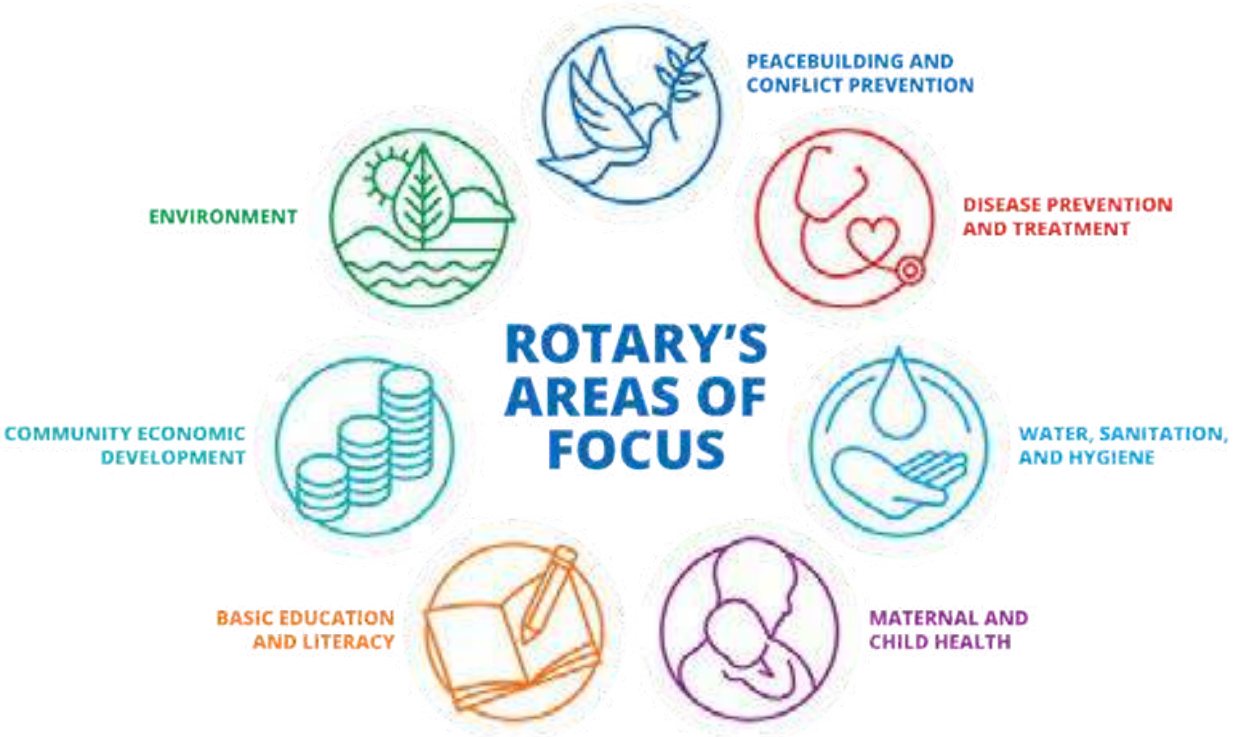
Together, as one Rotary family, we can turn compassion into action and build a future in which more people have the opportunity to live with dignity, peace, and hope.

Thank you for your dedication, generosity, and unwavering commitment to creating lasting impact.

With gratitude and Rotary spirit,
Florentina Dushi
Governor 2026–2027
District 2485



The Rotary Foundation



Trustee Chair's Message



Jeniffer Jones
Foundation Trustee Chair 2026/2027

Seeds of peace

Recently I met Selu Polley, a Ugandan police officer and a member of the 25th class of Rotary Peace Fellows at International Christian University in Japan. Growing up next to the Nakivale refugee settlement in southern Uganda — one of the oldest and largest in the world — Selu knew some of its residents. Now he hopes to focus his peace fellowship research on Nakivale, to prepare him to serve his own community. That conversation took me back to my own visit there in 2022 and reminded me that the seeds of peace can spring up where we least expect them. Nakivale is home to more than 286,000 people who have fled conflicts in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Rwanda, and elsewhere, many of them women who walked for days and often weeks to reach safety.

Their stories will stay with me forever. Every single one told me her husband had been murdered. Several had lost children to violence, hunger, or exhaustion.

Through immeasurable grief, their presence was steady, dignified, and resolute. When I asked what they needed, not one asked for money. Not one asked for food or shelter. They asked for opportunity. They wanted the chance to build small businesses so they could feed their children and send them to school. Their request was simple and powerful:

Help us create something that will last. To that end, I have been working with Paul Mushaho, a first-cohort graduate of the Rotary Peace Center at Uganda's Makerere University, who started Nakivale's first Rotaract club. With support from The Rotary Foundation, we are funding a sewing room where these women can learn a trade, earn an income, and build stability. Through those clubs, young people in Nakivale see themselves not as survivors but as leaders.

As we celebrate Rotary Foundation Month in November and embark upon the 25th year of Rotary Peace Fellows, remember how far the Foundation has come, and the work of the more than 1,900 peace fellow alumni. The journey to peace is begun by leaders like Paul, strengthened by the Nakivale women who refuse to give up hope, and carried forward by peace fellows like Selu.

Peace is not an abstract concept. It is an action, built one opportunity at a time, often by those who have endured the unimaginable and still choose hope. Through The Rotary Foundation, we can choose hope alongside them, and help it grow into something that lasts.

November: The Month of The Rotary Foundation



Panayiotis T. Katrougalos
2026-2029 RFC Zone21b, Region 25

Every November, Rotary dedicates a month to The Rotary Foundation. It is easy to see this as one more fundraising campaign, but the Foundation is much more than a bank or a grant office. It is the strategic bridge between our vision and real action, and one of our strongest tools for growing and keeping members.

Why should someone join Rotary?
Today's professionals want real results, not only weekly meetings. The Foundation offers exactly that: a world-class charity with a consistent four-star rating, turning local passion into global action.

Why do members leave? Rarely because they lack time. They leave when they feel bored or disconnected. The Foundation answers both problems. A member who follows a global grant from start to finish feels real ownership of the project. A member who gives to the Foundation feels part of a global family, not only a local club. Do we know clubs that do great local work but ignore grants? Would their members stay more engaged if they joined a Foundation project?

The next generation also matters. Rotaractors often leave when traditional clubs move too slowly. Today, Rotaract clubs can lead and co-sponsor Global Grants. When Rotary and Rotaract clubs work together on a grant, they build mutual respect and a natural path between the two families.

We must also **break down the silos.** Let us stop hiding our greatest asset and invite prospective members to see grant projects in action. The Foundation and membership are two sides of the same coin: better projects inspire more members, and inspired members build a stronger Foundation.

Creating Lasting Impact
This year's theme, "Create Lasting Impact," describes what the Foundation has done for decades. Its support for the fight against polio has helped reduce cases worldwide by more than 99.9 percent since the 1980s. Through Global Grants, Rotary members deliver sustainable projects in peace and conflict prevention, disease prevention, water and sanitation, maternal and child health, basic education, economic development, and the environment. The Rotary Peace Centers prepare future leaders to build peace in their communities. Each of these efforts is designed to last, because it builds local skills, local ownership, and local solutions. Lasting impact does not come from a single gift. It comes from many members, in many clubs, giving and acting together year after year.

Those of us who serve Rotary do it as volunteers, often giving many hours and

answering late-night calls. We do it because we know the system works. A donation becomes clean water, a grant becomes a clinic, and effort becomes hope and peace.

This November, let us support The Rotary Foundation with active involvement, encouragement, and a clear focus on the next generation. Together, we can grow our Rotary family and make our impact last.

Panayiotis T. Katrougalos

2026-2029 RFC Zone21b, Region 25













END POLIO NOW

End Polio Now: A Promise We Must Keep

A promise made to the world's children is a promise we must keep.

Every year, on 24 October, World Polio Day reminds us of one of Rotary's greatest achievements — and one of our most important unfinished responsibilities.
Since 1988, global polio cases have fallen by more than 99.9%. What once threatened hundreds of thousands of children every year has been pushed back through decades of vaccination, international cooperation, advocacy and extraordinary human determination.
Today, Afghanistan and Pakistan remain the only two countries where wild poliovirus is endemic. This is remarkable progress. But it is also a reminder that the final steps towards eradication are among the most difficult.

The Last Mile Still Matters

The latest reports from the Global Polio Eradication Initiative show that wild poliovirus continues to circulate, while outbreaks of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus remain a challenge in several countries.

These developments underline a simple truth: **until polio is eradicated everywhere, children everywhere remain at risk.**

Reaching the last unvaccinated children requires more than vaccines. It requires access to remote communities, trained health workers, reliable surveillance systems, public trust and sustained political and financial commitment.
And this is where Rotary's role remains essential.

The Power of Advocacy and Partnership

Rotary's contribution to polio eradication goes far beyond fundraising. For decades, Rotary members have worked with governments, international organisations, health professionals and local communities to maintain the commitment necessary to finish the job. Advocacy matters because eradication requires long-term decisions and reliable resources, even when other global priorities compete for attention.

Our partnership with the Gates Foundation reinforces the importance of every contribution. Eligible donations to Rotary's PolioPlus Fund are matched two to one, tripling their impact.
But the strength of PolioPlus also **depends on something closer to home: the commitment of our clubs.**

From Global Commitment to Local Action

For Rotary Zone 21B, World Polio Day is an opportunity to turn awareness into meaningful participation.
Every district, every Rotary club and every Rotaract club has a role to play.
A public event can introduce new audiences to Rotary's work. A conversation with a community leader can create an important partnership. A young Rotarian can bring the message to a new generation. A club contribution can help sustain vaccination and surveillance efforts.

End Polio Now: A Promise We Must Keep

None of these actions is insignificant.
As district leaders visit clubs and meet members, the message about PolioPlus contributions should remain clear, consistent and practical. Awareness is important, but our commitment must lead to action.
We also have an opportunity to bring young Rotarians, Rotaractors, sports personalities and community partners into this shared effort, making End Polio Now visible throughout the year — not only in October.

Our Promise Continues
The eradication of polio would be an extraordinary achievement for humanity and a lasting example of what determined people can accomplish together.
Rotary helped bring the world this far. Our responsibility is to help ensure that the progress is protected and the final goal is achieved.
Let us make every club conversation, every public event and every contribution count.
The promise is still ours. The opportunity to fulfil it is within our reach.

Learn more and support the campaign: endpolio.org



Rotary

ICC

INTERCOUNTRY COMMITTEES EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Intercountry Committees, Fellowships, Friendship Exchange

Uniting Rotarians Across Borders

International Fellowship: Twinning of Bari Sud and Rodos Kolossos Deepens Rotary ICC Framework (1/2)

A landmark four-day international gathering successfully consolidated cross-border bonds as Rotary Club Bari Sud (District 2120, Italy) and Rotary Club Rodos Kolossos (District 2475, Greece) celebrated their official twinning ceremony. This significant bilateral initiative is fully integrated under the official framework and strategic activities of the Rotary Inter-Country Committees (ICC).



The historical foundation for this partnership was established in Ioannina, Greece, during the April 2025 District 2475 Conference. At the time, Past District Governor (PDG) Nikos Margaropoulos extended an invitation to PDG Lino Pignataro of the Italian District 2120. Collaborating closely alongside visionary leaders—including Elena Janniki, Assistant Rotary Public Image Coordinator (ARPIC) of Zone 21B—the administrative groundwork was laid to construct a permanent ICC structure bridging Greece and Italy–Malta–San Marino. Today, PDG Margaropoulos serves as Section Chair for the Greek delegation,



International Fellowship: Twinning of Bari Sud and Rodos Kolossos Deepens Rotary ICC Framework (1/2)

working in tandem with PDG Pignataro representing the Italian side.

As a direct operational branch of this ICC's regional activities, the formalization of the club-level alliance reached its peak within the magnificent setting of the Circolo della Vela in Bari. Underlining the high diplomatic importance of this cross-border alliance, the event was explicitly anchored and elevated by the authoritative presence of PDG Maria Delivoria, the ICC National Coordinator and Country Chair of Greece. Her leadership and oversight brought paramount institutional backing to the gathering.Presided over by Club Presidents Kiriakos Salahouris (RC Rodos Kolossos) and Luciano Marciano (RC Bari Sud), the twinning protocols were executed in front of a distinguished assembly of Greek and Italian Rotarians. Special acknowledgment was extended to the key driving forces who championed the ICC vision and successfully brought it to life, most notably PDG Lino Pignataro and ARPIC Elena Janniki.

Demonstrating that the ICC network builds genuine cultural fellowship alongside formal protocols, the four-day itinerary seamlessly blended international diplomacy with cultural exchange.

Delegates explored the rich heritage of the Puglia region and partook in its traditional gastronomy.

Moving forward under the umbrella of the ICC, this collaborative bilateral journey is scheduled to continue in Greece on the Island of the Knights—Rhodes—to further expand mutual understanding, international friendship, and joint humanitarian service initiatives.

International Fellowship: Twinning of Bari Sud and Rodos Kolossos Deepens Rotary ICC Framework (2/2)

The Growing Strategic Importance of ICCs in Zone 21B

This twin club alliance underscores the rapidly expanding importance of the Inter-Country Committee network within Rotary Zone 21B. Serving as catalyst networks for peacebuilding, international fellowship, and regional stabilization, ICCs have become central pillars of the Zone's strategic growth. By promoting structured cross-border dialogues and alignment among diverse cultures, Zone 21B leverages these networks to amplify the scale and sustainability of global grants and community developments. This specific cross-regional bridging reinforces the Zone's overarching mission to turn localized civic goodwill into synchronized, high-impact international programs.










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Inter-Country Committee (ICC) Lebanon–Greece Officially Established

In a historic milestone for regional collaboration, a new chapter of international partnership was officially forged with the formal signing ceremony of the Inter-Country Committee (ICC) Lebanon–Greece on October 24, 2026. Held in Egypt, the event successfully united Rotary District 2452 and Rotary District 2475 in a shared mission to foster cross-border cooperation.

The creation of the ICC Lebanon–Greece reflects the core essence of Rotary International: connecting dedicated individuals across geographical borders, building cultural bridges, and translating bilateral friendship into sustainable, impactful humanitarian service.

Delegates from both nations expressed high expectations for the alliance, noting that this new bond is poised to inspire joint service initiatives, enrich intercultural Rotarian fellowship, and pave a progressive path toward regional understanding, solidarity, and peace.

With a single, shared vision, the newly established ICC stands ready to maximize the collective impact of both districts, proving that distinct nations can seamlessly work together to make a lasting difference for humanity.









Crispy Egyptian Quail, or How Egyptians Welcome Guests via a Rotary Friendship Exchange

As a child, I wanted to become an Egyptologist. I wanted to live in Egypt, discovering tombs, mummies, and treasures. My dream came to an end when I was about to graduate from school and found out the tuition fees at the only university in our country at the time that offered that discipline. Over time, after hearing the stories of every friend who returned from there, even the idea of visiting the country faded to zero.

A few months ago, however, I learned that a Rotary Friendship Exchange was being organized for Egypt between our District 2482 and the Egyptian District 2451. What made me change my mind and go? The opportunity to see the country through the eyes of locals. And not just any locals, but Rotarians - people I was certain would go above and beyond to make us feel as comfortable as possible.

And so, on a cold January day, we set off.

Our colorful group consisted of representatives from the Rotary clubs of Bansko-Razlog, Dupnitsa, Kyustendil, Sofia International, and Shumen. Despite the late hour of our exhausted (yet exciting nonetheless) arrival at the airport in the winter evening (around 10°C), our hosts were patiently waiting for us: Jean Moutran, Chairman of the Rotary Friendship Exchange Committee for District 2451, Egypt, along with our friends Ashraf (Rotary Club of Cairo Kings Valley), Mia (Rotary Club of Heliopolis El Nozha), and Manal (Rotary Club of Cairo Premier).

Following an exceptionally warm welcome and quick photos, Jean - with his wonderful sense of humor - assigned us to cars: one headed to Nagat's home, another to Mia's, and the rest to our hotel, the Regency Pyramids Hotel Cairo.



The fatigue accumulated during the long day gave way to the captivating new world unfolding beyond the car windows. The illuminated streets and boulevards revealed the massive scale of the places we were passing through.

After a few hours of rest, the real adventure called "Egypt" began. Our meeting point was in front of the Coptic Cairo complex in the old part of Cairo. There, our hosts Reham - (RC Cairo North, Jean - (RC Sheikh Zayed Eco, and Sherif - RC of Cairo Al Orouba, showed us the Greek Orthodox Church of St. George, whose origins date back to the 10th century AD or even earlier. We saw the Church of Saints Sergius and Bacchus, also known as the Abu Serga Church, built over a crypt where, according to tradition, Joseph, Mary, and baby Jesus stayed for three years after fleeing from King Herod. The braver members of our group drank water from the well located in the crypt, from which the Holy Family is believed to have drawn water. Another point of interest was the Ben Ezra Synagogue, which dates back at least to the 9th century AD. According to legend, this is the place where Pharaoh's daughter found baby Moses in the Nile.



Church of St. Sergius and Bacchus



The place where baby Moses was found



Church of St. George

We simply had to visit the bazaar in Old Cairo. It is one of those magical places that anyone in love with antiquity finds very difficult to leave. The sparkle of imitation gilded figurines gives way to a colorful palette of papyri, garments, books, jewelry, and all sorts of other souvenirs.

In the evening, in the heart of Old Cairo, we were welcomed by representatives of several local clubs in a magnificent historic building. Besides having special access control, it is one of those establishments where the spirit of the Orient mingles with that of English aristocracy. In addition to expanding our club banner collections, this gathering brought many new and interesting fellows.
Right from the first day and until the end of our stay, every cultural program was followed by a culinary one. However, every touch of local gastronomy was accompanied by plenty of emotions - such as being welcomed outside one of the restaurants by an orchestra playing Egyptian music, to which swaying your hips is practically mandatory.



The next few days were a constant chain of emotions that gripped us tightly from early morning until late at night.

Of course, one cannot go to Egypt and not see the Giza Pyramids. Our journey there took place via two-wheel carriages. Well, I have done some things in my life that people describe as extreme, but I must share that, in my opinion, riding those carriages was the most extreme of them all. The horse didn't pick its path too carefully, which included galloping over rocks in semi-rough terrain.



Somehow, we made it to the pyramids, where our carriage "driver" - along with the others - gave it their absolute all to take the best and most memorable photographs of us.

After visiting the Pyramids, we were special guests of the Rotary Club of Cairo North. The ladies of the club welcomed us in an exceptional restaurant with a wonderful view of New Cairo. I had watched its construction on National Geographic, but I had no idea it was already built and so enormous.

For me personally, it was astonishing how something so massive could spring up in the bare desert. The restaurant itself offered all sorts of culinary temptations, including crispy fried quails that were finger-licking good.

Our fantastic hosts presented their $2 million global grant project - “United to End Cervical Cancer in Egypt” - which aims to reduce the number of cases while raising awareness and improving women’s access to preventative care. Their presentation was so emotional that it was impossible not to be touched and moved by it.



Naturally, our evening was wonderful too. A cruise boat offering superb food and an entertaining program took us along the quiet waters of the Nile. Today, its banks are beautifully illuminated by all the major hotels and buildings standing along the riverbanks. Yet, it is not difficult at all to step back 2,500 years and imagine pharaohs contemplating these very same shores.



I could not possibly describe in detail every place we touched thanks to our hosts. However, I must mention our visit to the Grand Egyptian Museum, which opened its doors just a month before our visit. As the world's largest museum dedicated to one civilization, it offers an uncompromisingly good experience.

You know, because of my profession, I am a tough visitor - I see flaws everywhere: whether the display cases are clean or not, whether the lighting is good enough, how things are attached to the wall - can you see a nail or not - and many more details like that. Here, however, everything was perfect - from the exhibited artifacts, the amenities, and the sheer scale of the building to the shops and cafes on its grounds.















I must also mention our visit to the home of our Rotary friend Nagat. Not only did she open her home to us, but she and the other Rotarians who cared for us 24/7 had cooked traditional Egyptian food. Every single dish was a culinary jewel in its own right. We also used the time to express our gratitude.





The days that followed were filled with visits to even more local sights, each more interesting and beautiful than the previous. Among them were the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization - housing dozens of royal and non-royal mummies, including one of their most famous pharaohs, Ramesses II - the Citadel of Salah ad-Din - yes! the very same who was the Sultan of the Saracens in Syria and Egypt in the 12th century, evening walks through bazaars whose sounds and aromas made us feel like characters in One Thousand and One Nights, and much more.







On the last morning before leaving for Alexandria, we had the good fortune of clear weather, allowing us to see the Pyramids crystal clear from our hotel - having been slightly veiled by desert dust on previous days. We were accompanied by our host Hanan, who is not only the hotel owner but also a wonderful Rotarian. Under the care of their family, our stay in this beautiful hotel was a truly fulfilling experience.

The programme in Alexandria was equally rich. The city itself has a European feel - the buildings, the sea, the blue sky somehow hint that we are a step closer to home than we were in Giza and Cairo.



I would like to note our visit to the Bibliotheca Alexandrina and the Royal Jewelry Museum. The first place is emblematic for both - Egypt's ancient history and the entire ancient world, as well as of our modern times as a major public library and cultural center.







The Royal Jewelry Museum, on the other hand, is housed in a gorgeous building where Egyptian Princess Fatma Al-Zahra once lived. Built in 1919, the palace today preserves and displays primarily jewelry, alongside other works of art. Inside, magnificent gold jewelry belonging to the Muhammad Ali Dynasty mingles with breathtaking stained glass and beautiful objects related to Egyptian daily life and culture.



Visits to museums and cultural landmarks alternated with Rotary meetings - all of them exceptionally exciting and productive. Everywhere we were welcomed like good old fellows, despite meeting for the first time. Saying goodbye to everyone was difficult, but it came with the promise to meet again.













During our stay in Egypt, we met with the following Rotary clubs: RC Cairo North, RC Cairo Kings Valley, RC of Cairo Diamond, RC of Heliopolis El Nozha, RC of El Tahrir, RC Sheikh Zayed Eco, RC San Stefano, RC of Alexandria Golden Riders, RC of Alexandria Ramleh, RC of Alexandria Wave, and RC of Alexandria Sunrise.

My memory is so crowded with positive bright emotions that it is possible to miss someone, but I must thank our friends from Egypt who took care of us and made us feel right at home: Jean, Mia, Ashraf, Mayada, Mona, Mohamed, Nagat, Reham, Hanan, Sherif, Kamal, Dalia, Dina, Karim, Heba, Manal, Nehad, Sagi, and Doaa! Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

My gratitude is equally immense toward the team of the Bulgarian Rotary Friendship Exchange Committee.

I sincerely thank The Chair – Mrs. Ani Hristova and Iliyana Vakavchieva, who worked with all their heart and soul to make this exchange happen and made us a part of it in such a magical way.

Due to this Rotary Exchange, my entire perception and preconception of Egypt underwent a complete transformation. Although I left with the idea of seeing things "behind the scenes," I did not expect such warm, cozy, and incredible hospitality from the Egyptian Rotarians. Every single day was a miracle that makes me want to go back there again and again. Once more, I realize how astonishing our Rotary is, and how we transform both the world outside and within us.

Galya Atanasova
RC Shoumen, D2482

Rotary Zone 21b

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Volunteer Opportunities – Rotary Barcelona 2027
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Meet The Team

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Meet the TEAM



RPIC 2026-2029
Tanya Georgieva



PRPIC 2023-2026
PDG N. Altan Arslan, D2430



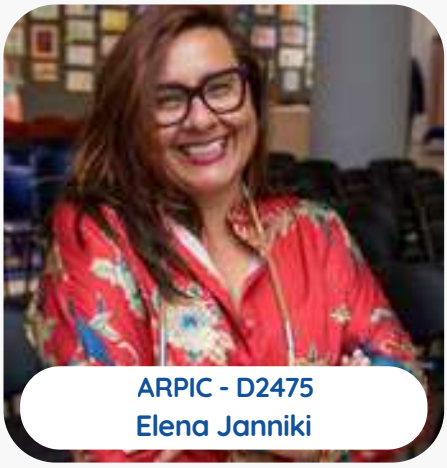
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PDG Aleksandar Radojicic



ARPIC - D2482
Arkan Nihat



ARPIC - D2420, D2430, D2440
Ayşe Mine Ergun



ARPIC - D2475
Elena Janniki



ARPIC - D2452
Faisal Juma



ARPIC - RAC
Foteini Papadimou



ARPIC - RAC
Cemre Başkır

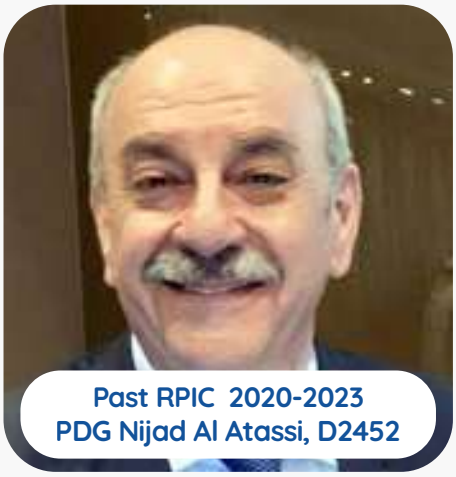


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Past RPIC 2020-2023
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PDG Gunes Ertas, D2440



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📢 **You are welcome to contact the assistants assigned to your districts and send in your questions or projects to be featured in the Zone 21B newsletter.**

Rotary Club Bourgas | Maths Festival

INTERNATIONAL ROTARY MATHS FESTIVAL

A Maths Festival for children of grades 1 to 12 organised in Bourgas, Bulgaria, by the Rotary club of Bourgas



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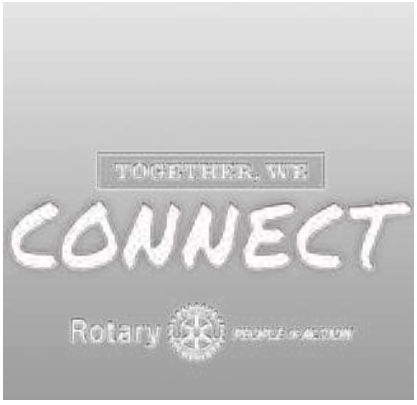
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