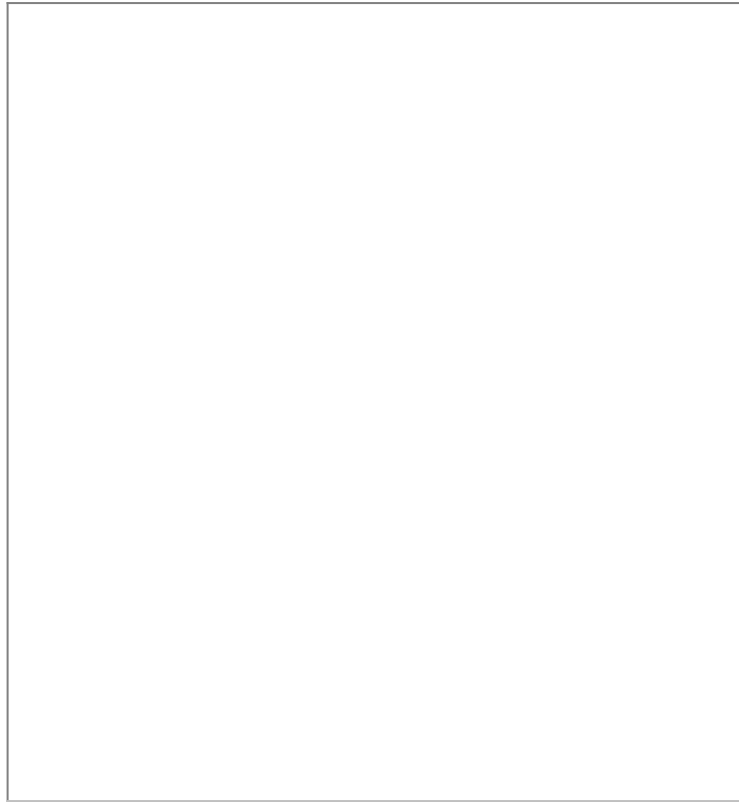




WASH-RAG Establishes Legacy Funds

By Ian Rumbles on Tuesday, August 25, 2026



WASH-RAG has established two permanent Legacy Funds honoring Ron Denham and Anna Shepherd, two key leaders who have helped to strengthen the organization.

The Ron Denham Legacy Fund will support high-impact WASH programs, while the Anna Shepherd Legacy Donates to WASH-RAG. Together, the funds create a lasting way to recognize their contributions while investing in sustainable world.

The announcement highlights WASH-RAG's growth and impact, including support for WASH projects affecting summit, and a growing network of more than 130 WASH Ambassadors.

Donations to either Legacy Fund provide an opportunity to honor Ron and Anna while helping carry their com

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District WASH Committee Holds Symposium

By Ian Rumbles on Tuesday, August 25, 2026

District WASH Committee Holds Symposium

On October 17, the District 5450 WASH Committee will be hosting a symposium on how the focus on Systems transforming WASH around the world. The symposium was started by Steve Werner more than 18 years ago into an annual opportunity to bring together Rotarians and WASH professionals from around the world.

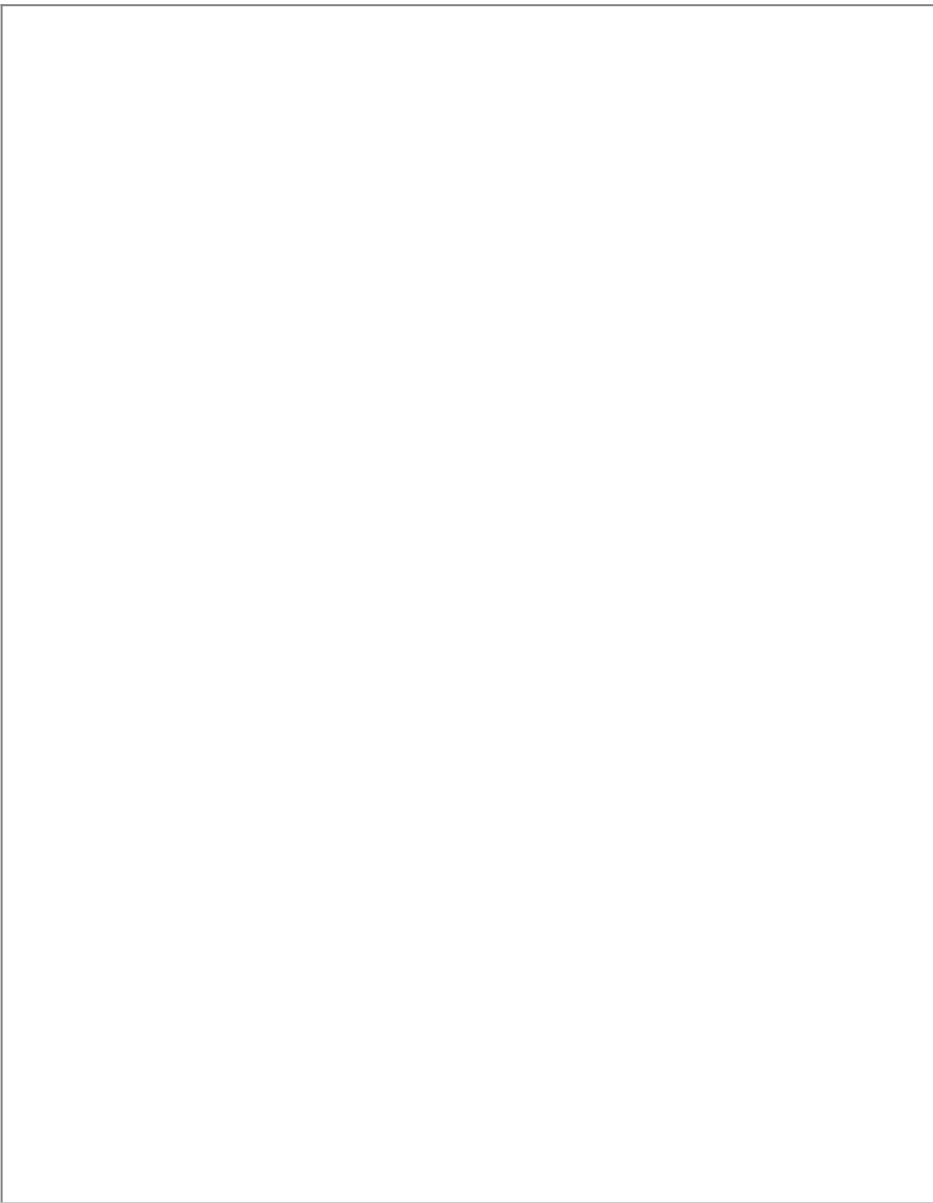
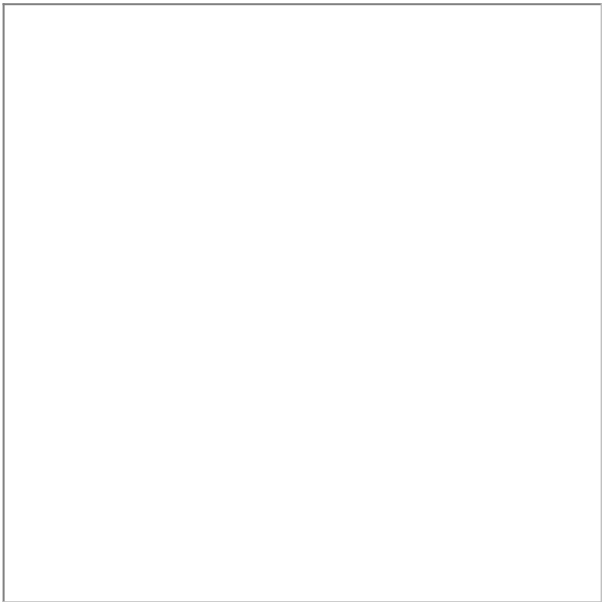
Presenters include Jean-Phillippe Debus, Global Lead WASH & Environment, Catholic Relief Services; Jane Ma Director, IRC Uganda; and Seth Segal, Water Expert and Bestselling Author.

You can attend the Symposium in person in Denver, Colorado, for \$50 if registered before October 1, and \$65 can also attend virtually for free. The plenary sessions will be live-streamed, and the breakout sessions will be posted on the District 5450 WASH Committee website and shared with WASH-RAG. Virtual participation is free especially WASH-RAG Ambassadors and members. To register and find out more, visit the [2026 WASH Sympos](#)

The [District 5450 WASH Committee](#) was formed in 2011 to bring together Rotarians and other professionals in WASH projects and programs. The WASH Committee meets monthly, shares ideas and resources, develops be plans an annual symposium on WASH, and is involved in providing WASH projects.

Progress on WASH in Healthcare Facilities?

By Ian Rumbles on Tuesday, August 25, 2026



The WHO and UNICEF jointly released their first joint report on the worldwide status of five WASH indicators

water services, and 72% have basic hand hygiene services. In least developed countries, only 64% have basic

While we still have work to do, the good news is that since 2015, the number of healthcare facilities with basic hand hygiene services by 17%.

The study involved 84 countries in three SDG regions. A factor in interpreting the progress is that the database expanded to nearly 2 million facilities in 2025.

[Read the Report Here](#)

Your AI Project Adviser: Ask Better Questions Before You Spend

By Stewart Martin on Tuesday, August 25, 2026

Use AI before you spend the money.

In this month's AI Corner, Stew Martin explains how Rotary WaSH teams can use AI not simply to improve a project but to **challenge the assumptions behind it**.

Before deciding to drill a borehole, build a latrine, or pursue another solution, ask AI to identify what you may not know: the real problem, alternative solutions, community voices, past failures, ownership, maintenance, partnerships, and sustainability.

The key lesson is simple:

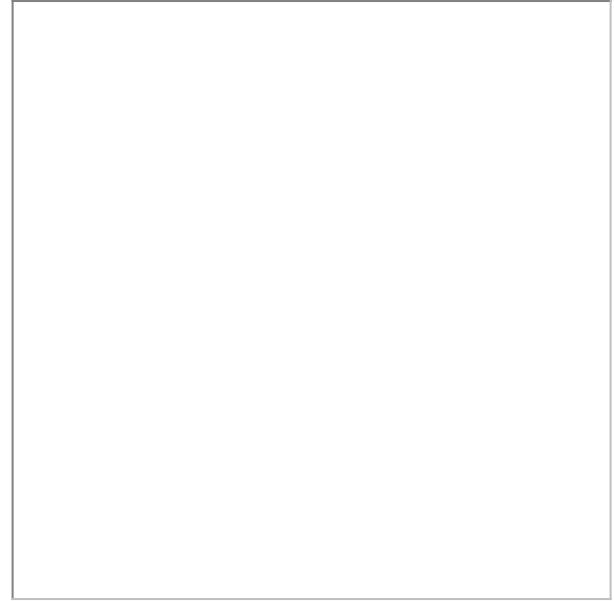
AI is most valuable when it helps us discover what we don't yet know.

By combining AI's questioning ability with thorough community assessment, local knowledge, professional expertise, and guidance from WaSH-RAG or the Cadre, Rotary clubs can make better decisions, avoid solution bias, and protect their Rotary resources.

[Read More](#)

The Ambassador Program Never Stops

By Stephen Mark Werner on Tuesday, August 25, 2026



Greetings from WASH-RAG's Ambassador Program!

The new Rotary year began on July 1, but the Ambassador Program never really stops—and there are two important reasons why.

First, Rotary clubs plan and implement WASH projects all year long. Even when club leadership changes, the work continues. Clubs are working on community and international service projects in communities around the world.

Second, the need itself never stops. Communities continue to face challenges related to safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene, so our mission continues.

That's why we need your help.

Consider joining WASH-RAG, volunteering to become a WASH Ambassador, joining a WASH-RAG committee, or becoming a WASH-RAG member.

Our motto, "Start With Water," reflects an important belief: WASH is not the only Rotary program, but improving water, sanitation, and hygiene is essential for better health, education, economic opportunity, and overall well-being.

The work continues throughout the year—and there is a place for you in it.

Learn more and get involved at:

www.wash-rag.org/ambassadors

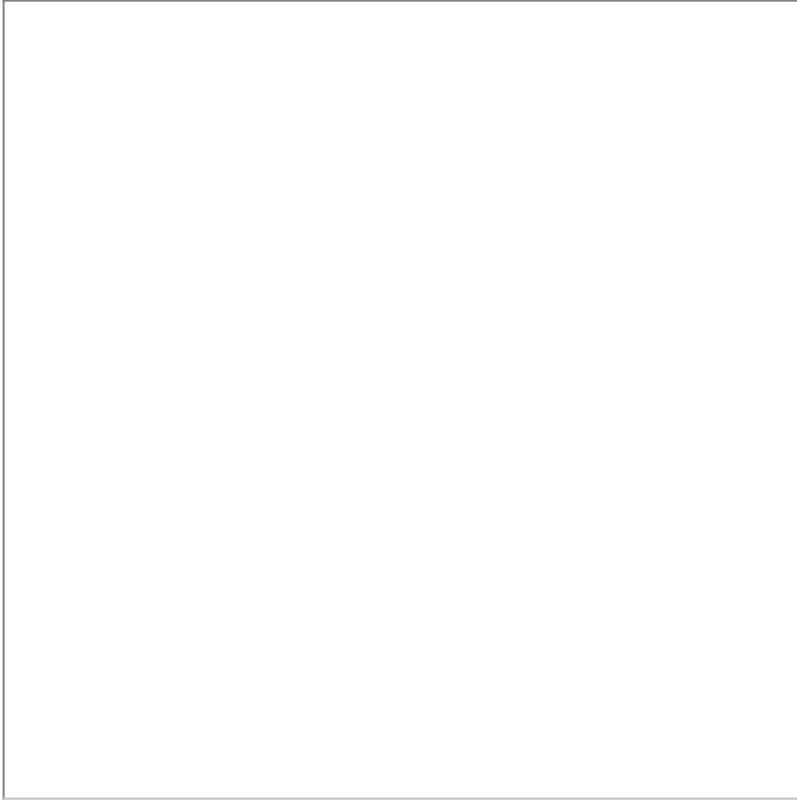
Steve Werner
WASH-RAG Ambassador Program



What Would You Like to Learn About WASH?

By Justine Wienken on Tuesday, August 25, 2026

What Would You Like to Learn About WASH?



We want to make sure our WASH-RAG educational resources focus on what you actually want and need to know.

Our Rotary community includes Club WASH Chairs, District WASH Committees, Ambassadors, and members who would be most useful, we'd like to hear from you.

Please reply and tell us:

- What are three areas of WASH information or knowledge you would most like to learn more about?

What questions come up most frequently?

- How would you like to learn? For example: webinars, short articles, videos, workshops, practical guides,
- What WASH topic would be most valuable to you right now?

Your answers will help us shape future newsletters, webinars, resources, and other educational opportunities.

Please send us your ideas. We want to listen—and build our educational program around what you tell us.

Info@wash-rag.org

Thank you for helping WASH-RAG make its resources more useful to you and your Rotary work.



Footer

Submit your stories, videos, and pictures for upcoming Newsletters to us at info@wash-rag.org.

WASH-RAG reserves the right to edit stories for length and content. By submitting a story you give us permission including but not limited to your email or club's website.

The WASH Rotary Action Group is pleased to consider partnerships with any corporate supporter. Due to the U.S. government's policy on accepting corporate support does not imply an endorsement of any particular water technology. Rotarians, Rotaract members, and Rotary clubs must determine if it is the best solution for the conditions where the program will be implemented. The WASH Rotary Action Group believes that certain technologies work best, but Rotarians and Rotary clubs must decide how to implement their programs.

This Rotary Action Group is recognized and operates in accordance with Rotary International policy, but is not affiliated with Rotary International. For more please contact the WASH Rotary Action Group by email at info@wash-rag.org Thank you.

WASH Rotary Action Group | USA