



## Issue 242 - July 2022

### Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

As we commence Rotary Year 2022-23, we create history by having Jennifer Jones as the first woman to take office as Rotary International President.

Women and Rotary have had its own history and if you haven't as yet, please read more at <https://rghf.org/women-and-rotary/>.

We, at the RGHF, are fortunate to have the first woman RI President and also the first woman Club President in the history of Rotary, PDG Dr Sylvia Whitlock, as members of our Fellowship group.

It was a pleasure for me to virtually meet PDG Dr Sylvia Whitlock during the Annual Meeting of RGHF held last month. Since my home club was also having a woman Club President getting installed, I had made a special request to PDG Dr Sylvia to share a short message for my Club President. PDG Dr Sylvia had graciously obliged, and her message to my Club President was read out during the Club Installation Ceremony. All thanks to RGHF!



**IMAGINE  
ROTARY**

Through the Presidential Theme for the year "Imagine Rotary," we have been urged to dream big and harness our connections and the power of Rotary to turn our dreams into reality. There is a great emphasis on better engaging members.

We appeal to all our readers to help us engage better. We look forward to your contributions to RGHF's Our Foundation Newsletter by way of stories, articles, event updates, and anything else that you would like to share with fellow members. We would be happy to include these in our forthcoming issues. Please write to me at [jeeturrotary@gmail.com](mailto:jeeturrotary@gmail.com).

Rotary Regards,



**Jeetendra Sharma**  
**Editor-in-Chief**  
**RGHF's Our Foundation Newsletter**

## Trustee Chair's Message

As an accountant, I look at the world through the lens of inputs and outputs. We can plan with precision today for success tomorrow. My profession also taught me that numbers — those inputs and outputs — can sometimes tell great stories.

One of those stories is The Rotary Foundation: What it has given the world, starting from a modest input of \$26.50, is nothing short of remarkable.

In 1918, that amount — the surplus from that year's Rotary Convention in Kansas City, Missouri — was applied, at the suggestion of 1916-17 Rotary President Arch Klumph, to a fund with the purpose of doing good in the world. The fund grew modestly until 1947, when Rotary founder Paul Harris died and donations poured in as a tribute to him. That year, the Foundation supported scholarships for 18 students — the first indication of the greatness to come.

Later the Foundation expanded, providing programs, like Group Study Exchange, and humanitarian grants, which impacted the lives of members and communities around the world. In 1979, a major grant helped immunize 6.3 million children in the Philippines against polio, which led to the establishment of PolioPlus in 1985.

Rotary's work with polio eradication — helping reduce wild polio from an estimated 1,000 cases daily in 1988 to just six total cases in 2021 — has been one of the most ambitious humanitarian projects ever undertaken by a nongovernmental body. That success story alone shows the significance and widespread impact of Rotary and its Foundation.

Perhaps what is even more remarkable is that polio eradication is but one part of the Foundation's efforts.

Today, the Foundation has grown into a multimillion-dollar charity. Our robust funding model allows districts the flexibility to choose which Rotary aspects they would like to support — polio eradication, scholarships, district grants, global grants, and more. Today's Foundation impacts the world through disaster relief, disease prevention, peace education, and other areas.

Everyone in Rotary is part of this great legacy; it is our responsibility to keep it going. This year, the trustees have set the goal of raising \$430 million. I know the expectations are high. But I also know just how much our members can achieve.

To get there, we will work together as we always do, with each club and individual giving what they can. In this way, we will ensure that we meet our ambitious but achievable goal and move our Foundation forward.



**Ian H.S. Riseley**  
**Trustee Chair 2022-23**

## The Mouse that Roared!

# THE MOUSE THAT ROARED: THE HISTORY OF WOMEN AND ROTARY SINCE 1911

Enjoy this 45-minute PowerPoint presented by Rotarian Lyn Kenney, a historian with Rotary Global History Fellowship. Learn about the many pioneering women who made a difference in Rotary long before the Duarte court case of 1987 which officially allowed women into Rotary.



Scan this code with your phone's camera to view the presentation or visit [youtu.be/PAUkhsiyDqg](https://youtu.be/PAUkhsiyDqg)

This is a free YouTube presentation.

*Please consider making a 100% tax-deductible donation to Rotary CARTS which funds Alzheimer's Research.*

Visit [cartfund.org/cart/donations](https://cartfund.org/cart/donations) or scan the code below.



## QUESTIONS?

Contact Lyn Kenney  
[lynkenney4@gmail.com](mailto:lynkenney4@gmail.com)  
Member, Madison South Rotary



## Rotary History - Early Leaders

As we start the new Rotary year, under new leadership, have you thought about the early leadership in the history of Rotary?



Read more here: <https://rghf.org/silvester-schiele-member-1/>

## Why I am a peacebuilder and how you can be one too

*by Kiran Singh Sirah, president of the International Storytelling Center and a Rotary Peace Fellow alum*



*Kiran Singh Sirah, Rotary Peace Fellow, speaks at the Rotary Presidential Conference Houston: Serve to Bring Peace 3 June in Houston, Texas, USA.*

In early June, I was a keynote speaker at the [Rotary Presidential Conference Houston: Serve to Bring Peace](https://blog.rotary.org/2022/07/12/why-i-am-a-peacebuilder-and-how-you-can-be-one-too/?utm_campaign=&utm_medium=social&utm_profile=Rotary+International&utm_source=linkedin). We were a group of about 1,500 people, many who are leaders in their communities, and all interested in peacebuilding. They were from all over the world. And every day, I was asked the question: what led me to become a peacebuilder?

There are so many ways I could answer that question because I've been doing this work in one way or another my whole adult life. And even before that, I can trace the answer back to the values that were instilled in me by my parents, who were both refugees driven from their home by a genocidal dictator. I can and do share my "origin story" as a peacebuilder in terms of my family, or explain the trajectory of my career as I've been doing this work—but I don't think that's what people are really asking when they say: "Why do you do this?"

I think what they want to know is why I believe that peacebuilding is possible. Almost everyone believes in peace, at least in theory. But I think a lot of folks have lost hope in it as a real, attainable goal, and as something we can strive for together. Too many people see peacebuilding as a huge, daunting, totally unrealistic goal. And so an important part of my message everywhere I go is that peacebuilding isn't just demonstrations and organized actions; it can also be comprised of unexpected connections, small acts of kindness, and quiet conversations in our day-to-day lives. This is work that all of us can do every day, and I think that the stories we share with one another are the structure on which we can build a better future.

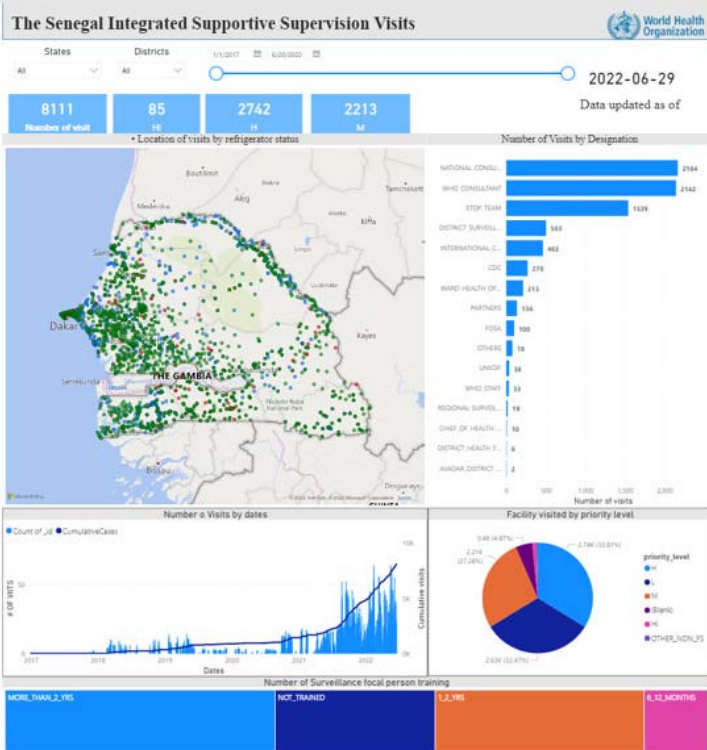
To that end, I wanted to share a few ideas based on stories from my own life about how I think we can go about this work.

Read more at: [https://blog.rotary.org/2022/07/12/why-i-am-a-peacebuilder-and-how-you-can-be-one-too/?utm\\_campaign=&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_profile=Rotary+International&utm\\_source=linkedin](https://blog.rotary.org/2022/07/12/why-i-am-a-peacebuilder-and-how-you-can-be-one-too/?utm_campaign=&utm_medium=social&utm_profile=Rotary+International&utm_source=linkedin)

Source: Rotary Voices

## **Innovative digital technologies bridge gaps in the polio response and beyond**

**WHO Geographic Information System (GIS) equips over 200 specialists across Africa with essential digital mapping and Mobile Health skills to boost public health systems in their outbreak responses.**



Dashboard showing real-time data on active case finding and routine immunization from integrated supportive supervisory visits to priority sites in Senegal. © WHO

While the WHO Africa Region (AFRO) has been facing its last hurdle in eradicating polio of all types since being certified indigenous wild polio free in 2020, a circulating variant of polio virus type two has been present in 26 countries with more than 1,000 cases between them, coupled with the recent importation of two wild polio type 1 cases. To help reverse this trend, the WHO/AFRO Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Center is equipping over 200 key country office focal points and Ministry of Health personnel across 47 countries with essential innovative technologies to better address outbreaks with necessary speed and quality.

Concluding a series of one-week capacity-building workshops over the past six months and targeting of the WHO regions of Central, East & Southern, and West Africa – – the AFRO GIS Center, with the support of the [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#) (BMGF), [WHO HQ Polio Unit](#) and GIS Centre for Health, the United States [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC), and [Novel-t](#) on-boarded digital GIS and Mobile Health (mHealth) technologies to support regional and national agendas particularly on planning and analysis for improvement of surveillance, campaigns and outbreak response for polio and all other routine immunization and outbreaks. While the initial investment was made by polio these tools are being leveraged for all health interventions.

Read more at: <https://polioeradication.org/news-post/innovative-digital-technologies-bridge-gaps-in-the-polio-response-and-beyond/>

Source: [www.polioeradication.org](http://www.polioeradication.org)

## Our Foundation Newsletter



This newsletter is published by the Rotary Global History Fellowship. The comments and stories in this newsletter do not reflect the opinions of Rotary International, The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International or any other Rotary related organization.

Jeetendra Sharma, Editor in Chief, [jeeturotary@gmail.com](mailto:jeeturotary@gmail.com)