



Issue 246 - January 2023

Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

Once there was a man who was running a business. He faced severe losses and had to sell his properties and cars to continue running the business. Seeing the situation, the son asked his father, "Why are you still running the business when you are at a loss? Why don't you shut the business?"

The father smiled and replied, "My son, life can bring us many challenges and even can push us down. But we have to hope that we can overcome any challenges." Son, "How can hope help us?" Father, "Ok, I will show you!

The father took his son to a big well and asked him to jump. The son, in shock, said "Father, I don't know how to swim. So I cannot jump." But his father pushed his son into the well and went into a hiding place. The son struggled and kept on trying to float for close to 5 minutes. Then, when he was about to get drowned, the father jumped and pulled his son out of the well.

The next day, the father again took his son to the well and asked him to jump again. First he hesitated, then he jumped into the well. The father again went into hiding. The boy again struggled to keep floating, and he pushed harder. Time kept on running. Even after 15 minutes, he managed himself. Then the father came and pulled his son out of the well.

The father asked his son, "Why were you pushing harder than yesterday?". The son replied, "Yesterday, I did not know what to do when you pushed me into the well. With fear, I drowned. But today, I know that you will come and save me if I am about to get drowned".

Moral of the story: Life can bring us many challenges. When we push ourselves with the hope of overcoming it and trusting people around us, we can overcome it.

(Source: <https://winnersstory.com/short-stories-hope-1/>)

Through the 2023-24 Presidential Theme, *Create Hope in the World*, Rotary International President-elect R. Gordon R. McNally, has appealed Rotarians to restore hope - to help the world heal from destructive conflicts and, in turn, to help us achieve lasting change for ourselves. "This is how Rotary brings lasting change to the world, one restored or newly created hope at a time."

We wish all our readers a Happy, Healthy, Prosperous and Safe 2023!

Rotary Regards,



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

Trustee Chair's Message

A new year is upon us. As we look forward to new beginnings and experiences, let's think outside the box and find new opportunities to serve through Rotary.

Consider taking up a community economic development project this year. In this Rotary area of focus, we apply our professional experience by promoting the entrepreneurial spirit as we help communities help themselves in a sustainable way. Community economic development projects, to paraphrase the universal adage, don't just give someone a fish today but teach them to fish so they can eat for a lifetime.

These projects can be microloans to start up a livestock breeding business, or they might take the adopt-a-village approach in which Rotary works with communities on multipronged efforts to boost local economies sustainably.

In 2000, during its transition to independence, Timor-Leste was reeling from political violence and destruction. Communities not only needed shelter and improved living conditions but also a new economy.

This is where Australian Rotary clubs stepped up with the East Timor Roofing project to produce and install corrugated roofing, and later, water tanks and grain silos. As the project grew, other organizations joined, including The Rotary Foundation, which delivered a grant that set the project on its path to success.

Before long, East Timor Roofing became a financially viable enterprise, raising enough money to build roofs for homes, schools, orphanages, and commercial buildings. Subsistence farmers got silos for their crops. Hundreds of Timorese received professional training in basic building and administrative skills. Thousands of new water tanks ensured that young girls could attend school rather than fetching water.

What began as a roofing project is today a commercial enterprise employing local people and making a huge impact. And your Foundation paved the way.

What experiences lie ahead for you in 2023? A district or global grant? Or possibly a visit to Melbourne, Australia, just up the road from my home, to make new friends, reunite with old ones, and find partners for projects during the 2023 Rotary International Convention?

Let's make a New Year's resolution to take advantage of opportunities to learn, grow, and serve. And let's have some fun in the process. This is Rotary, after all.

So, my friends, let us go forth and *carpe annum* — seize the year.



Ian H.S. Riseley
Trustee Chair 2022-23

RI president-elect announces 2023-24 presidential theme

By **Etelka Lehoczky**



Rotary International President-elect R. Gordon R. McNally called for members to capture the world's attention and lead the way toward possibilities far beyond our current expectations.

McNally, a member of the Rotary Club of South Queensferry, West Lothian, Scotland, revealed the 2023-24 presidential theme, *Create Hope in the World*, during the Rotary International Assembly in Orlando, Florida, USA, on 9 January. He urged members to promote peace in troubled nations, help those affected by conflict, and maintain the momentum of initiatives begun by past leaders.

"The goal is to restore hope — to help the world heal from destructive conflicts and, in turn, to help us achieve lasting change for ourselves," McNally said at Rotary's annual training event for incoming district governors.

[Read more...](#)

Paul Harris Rotary Room



A new stone wall covering has been recently added to original Paul Harris Rotary Room to resemble how it looked with the foundation wall exposed.

Image courtesy: PDG Irv Kaplan, RGHF Board Chair, who is leading this effort of Paul Harris Home restoration.

Read more about the Paul Harris Home at <https://rghf.org/home-at-comely-bank/>

Unique initiative for TRF Fund-raising

Wedding ceremonies are occasions for celebration and joy. Families and friends shower their good wishes to the newly-wedded couple, many by way of giving wedding gifts. Rtn Anil Newale of Rotary Club of Pimpri Elite, RI District 3131, Pune, India recently celebrated the wedding of his daughter, Pranali with Rohit. Rtn Anil Newale thought of a unique gesture to make an appeal to the guests for donating to The Rotary Foundation instead of giving gifts to the newly wedded couple.



Wedding Invitation

The message on the Wedding Invitation read: **"Gifts and Presents will be accepted!** Yes, We will accept your gifts

& presents as a token of your love, but only in the form of Cash or Cheque in favor of "Rotary Foundation India" - a well renowned NGO working around the world focusing on 6 main areas:

1. Peace & Conflict Resolution
2. Disease Prevention & Treatment
3. Water & Sanitation
4. Maternal & Child Health
5. Basic Education & Literacy
6. Economic & Community Development

In this great initiative, we Newale family, will add equal amount gifted by you and the total amount will be donated for this social cause... Thanking you in Advance!"

As a result of this appeal, the Newale family received gifts of Rs. 112,274 (around US\$1,360) and, as promised, they contributed an equal amount to make the total donation to The Rotary Foundation as Rs. 224,548 (US\$2,720).

A unique and noble gesture, which could inspire many more!



Rtn Anil Newale & Vaishali Newale with their daughter, Pranali

Polio-free India: It seemed impossible until it was done

Dr Hamid Jafari, Director of Polio for the WHO's Eastern Mediterranean Region, reflects on his time eradicating polio in India and what lessons we can take from this to address the final challenges for achieving eradication in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

India's journey from the world's epicentre of a highly infectious viral disease to turning polio-free was like walking on eggshells: Every step we took mattered.

On 13 January 2023, India completes 12 polio-free years – a remarkable achievement that was made as a result of consistent, determined efforts and genuine commitment at all levels.

I spent close to six enriching years of my life serving as the project manager of the National Polio Surveillance Project (NPSP) for WHO India. My work entailed providing technical assistance and strategic guidance to the national programme. I was also in charge of poliovirus surveillance, monitoring mass vaccination campaigns, crafting corrective measures and strategies, and working closely with government counterparts at all levels to ensure every child was vaccinated enough times to build their immunity. We delivered around 1 billion doses of polio vaccine to 172 million children each year over the course of four years leading up to the last case. And many more in the years after.

Taking a step back to reflect on this journey, there were several factors contributing to the monumental success of ending polio in India. The first fundamental factor was government commitment that consistently translated into diligent administrative action at the operational level. Even the district administrators were fully aligned with and committed to taking corrective measures based on evidence: accepting programmatic gaps and challenges and then committing to addressing them urgently.

Read more on the [EMRO website](#).



Our Foundation Newsletter



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