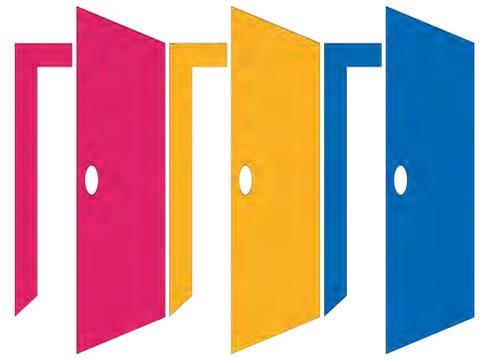


Rotary



District 7305

The Connector - February 2021

Rotary Opens Opportunities

Membership Matters

On January 30th, the Mid-Year Review included updates on our current membership and where we are headed. While we are down 2.81%, we are optimistic that the upcoming Membership Summit will inspire our clubs to turn that around in the next half of this Rotary year. There are also lots of proven ideas in the Membership Playbook 2020-2021: "Building a Culture that will Lead to Consistent Membership Growth."

Even with an overall decline in membership, there are clubs out there that have added new members. To date, kudos to the following clubs for placing in the top five for membership growth:

- Pittsburgh +6
- Forest Hills +5
- Monroeville +5
- Portage +4
- White Oak +4

If you haven't already done so, please integrate your club with DACdb so that district and Rotary International membership numbers will match.

Looking forward, register now for the five-part Membership Summit that will be held in February and March.

Topics to be discussed at the different Membership Summit will include:

- 2/18: Intentional Membership Strategies and Engagement
- 2/25: Membership Goal Setting and Membership Engagement
- 3/11: Discover Rotary & Membership Growth Plans
- 3/18: Changing Club Culture
- 3/25: Putting it Together – Using 10 PROVEN Strategies

You can register for the summit session at: shorturl.at/pAK56



SHINING ROTARY'S LIGHT MEMBERSHIP TRAINING SESSIONS

Serious about membership growth?

Want to see you club get stronger and become more energized?

These 5 sessions are for YOU!

All sessions on Thursday's 6:00 – 7:00 PM

2/18/2021 – Intentional Membership Strategies & Engagement

2/25/2021 – Membership Goal Setting & Membership Dynamics

3/11/2021 – Discover Rotary & Membership Growth Plans

3/18/2021 - Changing Club Culture

3/25/2021 – Putting it Together – using 10 PROVEN Strategies



Your membership committee is here to support you. If you would like help with membership, please reach out to our Co-Chairs:

PDG Linda Fischer Bruce
tech@mckinley-group.com

PDG Cherie Sears
cherie.sears@thevillagecares.org

**SESSION #1
FEBRUARY 18TH
6 TO 7PM**

**Intentional
Membership
Strategies &
Engagement**

**It is a New Year &
there are
opportunities to
grow!**

**Learn membership
tips to engage ALL of
your members &
create a vibrant club**

Hosted by DG Al DeLucia and the
D7305 Membership Committee

Quote of the Month:

"What really matters from the point of view of social capital and civic engagement is not merely nominal membership, but active and involved membership."

Robert D. Putnam

World Affairs Institute 2020

At the 50th annual World Affairs Institute for Student Leaders, held on December 2, 2020, we worked to empower and inspire youth to meet their potential. At this event designed by and created for youth, we explored local and global issues and found strategies to become part of the solution. The event featured in-depth sessions on social justice issues, highlighted youth making change locally and globally, and provided opportunities to gain skills and motivation for taking sustained and meaningful action. We hope that this day-long Institute inspired young people to tackle global issues and take their skills to change their community for the better!

The group was composed of a very interesting and exciting panel of activists and cultural figureheads. For a Zoom presentation, they were incredibly engaging. I regularly typed things in the chat that were elaborated on by the speakers. It would be great to have these in person to get a face to face connection with the speakers, but this level of interactivensness is a great compensation. *Student, North Allegheny Senior High School*

This day-long virtual seminar had many interesting speakers. My favorite by far was the BLM and Police Reform with Miracle Jones from 1Hood. Miracle Jones resides in Pittsburgh currently, and the problems that she faces are problems I have seen firsthand. She had a great perception of the world, and how race relations, BLM programs, and unity work. She was realistic and very informative on these subjects, and I really gleaned a lot from this talk specifically. I enjoyed her power point a lot, as it shed light on a lot of pressing racial issues in a clear and concise way. *Student, North Allegheny Senior High School*

I thoroughly enjoyed this event because they actually had young activists talk about the importance of youth voice. Many of them had recently started in activism, so they gave nice explanations on how to expand your reach when advocating. My favorite part was when they had a few speakers come in to talk about



One of the sessions offered at the World Affairs Institute in December was on Yoga and Meditation. This is something that many of us would probably benefit from during these extraordinary times. As one student put it: "I was not expecting to learn self-care and time management skills during the Institute. These will allow me to better my mental and social health!"

Text & picture courtesy of Kathleen Newell, World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh

activism burnout and self care. In quarantine, it is a little hard to be motivated, but the event overall resparked my passion for advocacy. I also really enjoyed the in between breaks with the performance from 1Hood and the soccer break. *Student, North Allegheny Senior High School*

This event greatly increased my knowledge on a number of topics. I enjoyed being able to choose speakers who interested me and catered to my specific passions. Even in the events in which I did not choose, I still learned much that I could apply to my experiences. For example, one of the speakers spoke about ways to increase productivity and different methods to use to improve focus. I've already utilized the different approaches (specifically the Pomodoro one!) she mentioned. However, my favorite part was listening to a Filipina photojournalist. It was so inspiring to hear from a fellow Filipina woman who actively works in the career field I am interested in. *Student, North Allegheny Intermediate High School*

It was so wonderful to hear about a variety of topics and it kept me intrigued and interested the entire time! I learned about new ways to help my community. I am fascinated with different cultures and languages, and it was amazing to learn about the ways I can use that passion to help others! I hope

to institute a program into my High School to help my school learn about all the diverse cultures we have! *Senior, Peters Township High School*

[The Institute] was very effective. [The speakers made me] realize things don't have to be on a big scale to be effective, they can start small. *Senior, Taylor Allderdice High School*

The speakers were very inspirational and passionate. I learned that you can be a leader even at a young age. I will organize a club and donate to more charities. *Freshman, Mt. Lebanon High School*

Overall, [the speakers] were very well selected and were enthusiastic in their presentations. I was not expecting to learn self-care and time management skills during the Institute. These will allow me to better my mental and social health! *Sophomore, North Allegheny Intermediate High School*

It was good. I learned a lot. I really liked learning more about the issues within our society. *Sophomore, Taylor Allderdice High School*

The World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh's mission is to provide a pathway for a more globally minded region, offering students and the community a learning space that covers key international issues. The Council is a member of the World Affairs Council of America (WACA), a network of more than 90 nonprofit, nonpartisan member Councils around the country.

Filling the Red Kettle

During a normal year, The Rotary Club of Johnstown rings the bells for the Salvation Army's Red Kettle campaign at the Galleria Mall. Unfortunately, this year, the club was unable to assist with the ringing due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Instead, the club established a virtual Red Kettle Challenge campaign to collect funds. This was very successful, collecting \$2,100 in donations. In addition, this Christmas season the Salvation Army was the beneficiary of a generous benefactor who pledged to match donations received via the Red Kettle campaign. This means that the \$2,100 collected by The Rotary Club of Johnstown may be matched to total over \$4,000.

In all, the Johnstown Chapter of the Salvation Army, with the match, will have raised over \$145,000 during this Red Kettle Campaign.

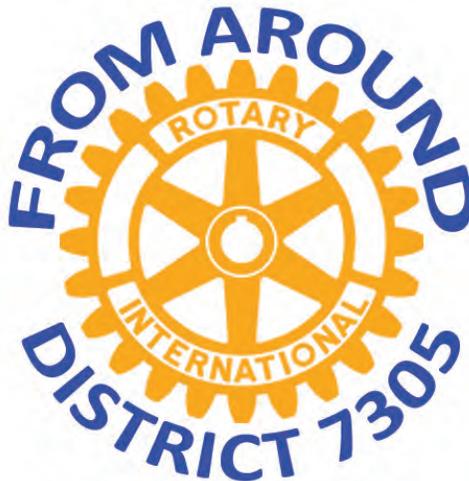


Johnstown Rotarian F. Patrick Petrell, delivering checks and cash totaling \$2,100 to Salvation Army Captain Erin Smullen.

RC of Forest Hills Stays Active

When there is need in the community, organizations and individuals in the Woodland Hills area always step up to help. In 2020, because of the pandemic (and in spite of it), the Rotary Club of Forest Hill committed their services and funds to fill needs as they arose. Last year's projects included:

- Distribution of multiple \$400 Target gift cards for the holidays to families in need who were recommended by the school district and Forest Hills Presbyterian Church.
- Donation of tablets and laptops through the Woodland Hills Foundation to enable students to learn virtually, including Pre-K and Kindergarten children.
- Participation in the Woodland Hills Foundation H.U.G.S Six Feet or Treat, a socially distanced Halloween event for families in the district.
- Providing new mattresses to families in need through Off the Floor Pittsburgh, a local nonprofit providing basic furniture to disadvantaged individuals & families in need.
- Spending two Saturday mornings picking up trash from Forest Hills streets and parking lots.



- Delivering 50 boxed lunches for Veterans Day to residents of Forest Hills Veteran/Senior Housing Building.
- Hosting Virtual Trivia for Good, an online trivia with prizes. In partnership with Radical Trivia, the event raised funds for the Woodland Hills Foundation to provide tablets to students, and for the Urukundo Foundation to improve the lives of orphaned and abandoned children, as well as the poor and vulnerable people of Muhanga District, Rwanda, Africa. And, although Covid-19 has prevented in-person meetings, the Zoom meetings have allowed the club to continue its good work. They have even managed to welcome three new members: Gail Evans-Potter, Laurien Sibomana, and Ed Hyde.



Virtual Cooking Class

Thank you to everyone who supported the RC of McMurray virtual cooking class fundraiser for Angels' Place on January 18.

A special thank you to Chef Justin and his daughter for sharing their wonderful dishes with everyone!



The Forest Hills Rotary Club participated in a socially distanced Halloween event. Top: Ken and Gail Potter; Above: Kevin and Minnie Zhukas.

Text & pictures courtesy of Jane Elder

Little Free Library

We at the Pittsburgh Glass Center are so excited to unveil the new Little Free Library in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Thanks to the Pittsburgh East Rotary Club for their support of this project, including dozens of fun books for all ages to kick off our library.

The floral design, made of glass mosaic, was inspired by the local flowers and gardens that are bright and full of life, just like our lovely neighborhood. It was designed by PGC artists Dana Laskowski and Courtney Clemm and completed with the help of PGC staff.

Stop by, take one, leave one, join in the fun!



The Pittsburgh East Rotary Club and the Pittsburgh Glass Center recently installed a Little Free Library in their neighborhood.
Pictures & text courtesy of Pittsburgh Glass Center



RC of Greensburg Ringing the Bell for the Salvation Army

The Rotary Club of Greensburg was one of many clubs in our district who, in person or virtually, helped fill the Salvation Army's red kettles.

The club lucked out with a beautiful sunny day when they did their Christmas duty on December 11.



Environmental Studies

This, right here, is one of the many reasons why I'm proud to be a Rotarian.

Through Rotary International's Global Grant program, the Rotary Club of Moon Township was able to assist local student, Jessica Sales, in obtaining a full scholarship (\$125,000!!) to pursue a Masters Degree in Engineering with a focus on water, wastewater, and waste management.

Jessica will be attending the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia starting next month! I am so excited to be part of this amazing opportunity for Jessica and can't wait to see the great things she will accomplish in the future.

By Kilee Bomgardner



Jessica Sales will be studying issues related to water, wastewater, and waste management at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia. Picture courtesy of West Allegheny Magazine

Quaker Valley Socks for Vets

Did you know that socks are the least donated item at homeless shelters and, many times, the most needed? The Rotary Club of Quaker Valley spent the last two months collecting socks for local Veterans served by the Veterans Leadership Program (VLP). In addition to the socks, they also made a \$250 cash donation.

Earlier, in July of 2020, they also donated \$4,000 worth of bed sheets for the Veterans within the VLP housing programs. The VLP wishes to thank the Rotary Club of Quaker Valley. They are very grateful for their generosity and continued support of the VLP's mission to empower Veterans.



Thank you to the Rotary Club of Quaker Valley for donating hundreds of socks as well as a monetary donation for the Veterans that are served at the Veterans Leadership Program!

Wreaths Across America

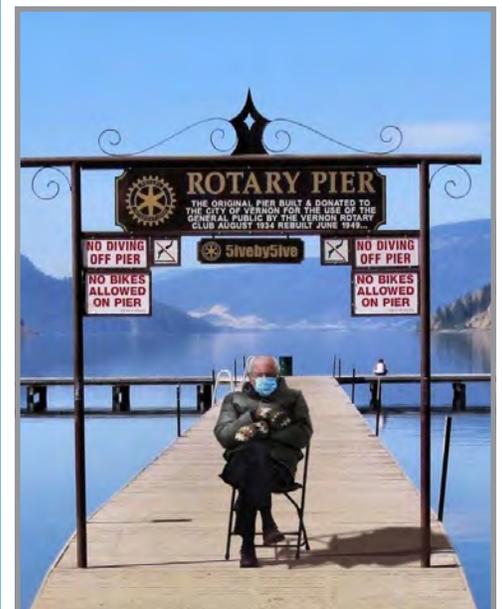
Beginning on Wednesday, December 16, 2020 and ending on Saturday, December 19, 2020, hundreds of volunteers participated in Wreaths Across America sponsored annual placement of holiday wreaths on over 14,000 grave sites currently at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies located in Cecil Township, Pennsylvania.

And, on Saturday, January 23, 2021

all these wreaths were removed from those grave sites by over a hundred volunteers in just a few hours.

The Rotary Club of Bethel-St. Clair proudly supported this wreath clean-up event by providing our "COVID-19 Safe" group of volunteers (see picture below), including Dick Beck, Ray Detig, John Donahoe, Tim Donovan, Tracy Estabrook, Jim Hinerman, Eric Pfiel, Karen Pfiel, George Pitcairn, and Sam Provil. Another "hands-on" Rotary service opportunity for remembering & thanking those who have served us.

Text & Picture courtesy of Sam Provil



Well, we all knew it would only be a matter of time before someone would find a way to place Bernie Sanders and his mittens in a Rotary setting...

Interact Trivia Challenge

The Trivia Challenge was an idea that an Interact board member came up with to allow Interactors to meet each other while earning the opportunity to win money for their club's projects. The Interact board of directors believes the Trivia Challenge succeeded far past their initial hopes. Seeing the teams compete, laugh with one another, and hear about each other's projects was heartwarming, to say the least. Though it wasn't the format we would have hoped for, the connections that formed throughout the Trivia Challenge were worth the time and effort the board put into it. The board of directors would like to thank all of the clubs that chose to participate in this challenge. We hope they had as much fun as we did!

We started with a total of eleven teams in the trivia challenge. The eleven teams were from North Allegheny High School, Jeannette Area High School, Ambridge High School, Greensburg Salem High School, Homer Center High School, Peters Township High School,



Westmont-Hilltop Jr. High School, Franklin Regional High School, South Fayette High School, Chartiers Valley High School and Conemaugh Township High School.

During this single elimination tournament, Franklin Regional, North Allegheny, Homer Center and Westmont-Hilltop all made it to the semi-finals. Moving on to the finals were North Allegheny and Homer Center, in the end North Allegheny prevailed and won the first-place prize of \$500 to be used for a new or existing service project in their school or community. Homer Center and Franklin Regional did not go home empty handed. Homer Center took home \$250 for second place and Franklin Regional held on to

third place and took home \$100. All of the prize money was donated by interested Rotarians and two Rotary clubs in the District.

During the course of the competition, District Governor Al and District Governor-Elect Nominee Marie made appearances and welcomed everyone to the competition. District Governor Al was so impressed with the competition that, when asked if the district leadership would be willing to field a team to go against the winners, he said that if that was a challenge, he would accept.

The date has been set! On Monday, February 22 at 7:00 PM the winners of the Trivia Challenge Tournament (North Allegheny Interact Club) will face off against the leadership of Rotary District 7305 for the bragging rights in the District. The competition will be held via Zoom, and all Rotarians and Interactors are invited to join us to see if youth and exuberance can defeat experience and years of knowledge.

Zoom Meeting ID: 884 9630 9547
Zoom Passcode: 059122

The 2021 Rotary International Convention will be Virtual

Dear Rotarians, Rotaractors, and friends,

By now we have sadly grown accustomed to hearing of the need to shift major public events to being held virtually rather than face to face. Unfortunately, the Rotary Board of Directors was compelled to again make the difficult decision to celebrate this year's International Convention as a virtual event. While this may not be an unexpected decision, it is still a deeply disappointing one, for us and for our friends in Taiwan who have been planning an exceptional event. I want to thank the Host Committee for the admirable job they did building support for what surely would have been one of Rotary's finest events.

We had hoped that a combination of vaccine uptake and public health measures would have brought the COVID-19 pandemic under control. We all know that in many parts of the world the pandemic is still raging and we must maintain our vigilance and patience before resuming major



Due to the Taipei Convention being cancelled, RI will automatically cancel and refund all existing registrations. RI kindly asks that you NOT contact RI Registration to inquire about registration, ticket, or housing cancellations as they work diligently to inform all attendees and process cancellations and refunds.

public gatherings. Taiwan has done an admirable job managing the pandemic and local Rotarians were still eager to host and celebrate with us. Under the guidance of the World Health Organization and the local public health organization in Taiwan, it became clear that an event of this scale would be impossible to host safely.

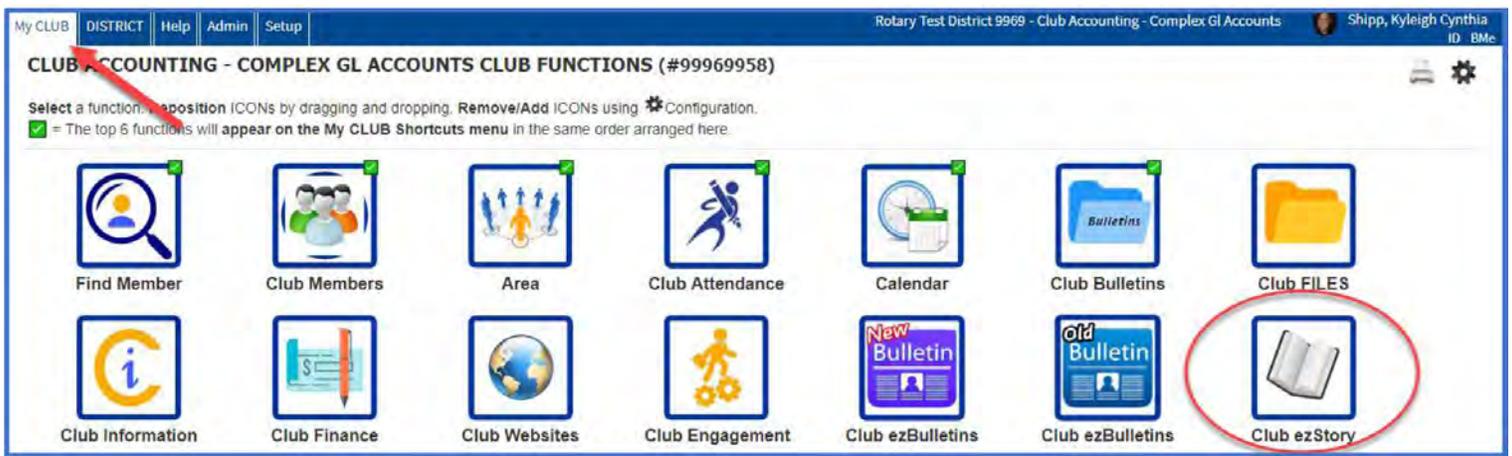
While we are disappointed that we could not have a traditional convention, we are excited about the virtual event being planned for all Rotarians worldwide. Last year's convention attracted significant viewership during its weeklong program. This year, we will channel all we have learned about staging

the very best in virtual events into a program that promises to open new opportunities for you to be entertained, enlightened and energized. We will share more details about the 2021 Virtual Convention soon.

I want to thank all Rotarians and Rotaractors around the world for your understanding and your continued willingness to learn and adapt. We are becoming a stronger, more nimble organization because of this, and our Virtual Convention will be a reflection of this new Rotary.

Please be safe and take care of each other.

Kindest regards, Holger Knaack
RI President, 2020-21



DACdb ezStory

As you may know, our district has made the switch from ClubRunner to DACdb this year. The switch was made in order to integrate our district's data with the rest of our Rotary Zone. However, it was also, in part, due to the many features that DACdb offers to help with club administration and communication.

The module I'd like to tell you about today is the ezStory creator. With this module, you can design an announcement or story, along with pictures and links to more information. It is also very easy to share your story with your club members and our district. In fact, you can even share it right onto the District 7305 website.

The ezStory module provides members with the ability to create unique and compelling articles that will engage and interest other club and district members. Stories can easily be created and immediately

DACdb, our district's new membership management system, is much more than just a membership directory. Over the coming months, IT Co-Chairs Dennis Piper and Dan Dougherty will tell us about the modules in DACdb and will also offer other useful tech tips. This month's tip is about the ezStory module that can be used to communicate with your club members at the entire district.

appear on the club or district's websites when published.

Members can contribute stories in a "draft" state and a built-in workflow will notify editors and publishers when the story is ready for the next step. Stories are easily created using a WYSIWYG HTML editor. Multiple images can be uploaded and included in the story.

Key Features:

- Each club or district can enable an optional work flow and approval process (draft, review, approved, published) for their process. An archived 5th state is also available.
- The ezStory module supports email notifications when stories are created, and move into different publishing states.
- Clubs can embed links and videos into the stories.
- Clubs can save space on their

homepage by only displaying a paragraph or two and adding a 'Read More' link.

- Assign a minimum security level to each story and/or assign a role to each story – enabling each story to be targeted to a specific audience.
- Apply multiple categories to each story – allow stories to be targeted to certain web pages.
- Stories can be pulled to the club or district website automatically when published if desired.

If you are interested in learning more about DACdb and its modules, reach out to your IT Co-Chairs Dennis Piper and Dan Dougherty at: IT@rotarydistrict7305.org

They can help you get setup and share your first announcement.

Look for more useful DACdb features in the newsletter each month. *By Dan Dougherty*



On January 28, the Rotary Club of Washington arranged a drive-by 100th birthday celebration for PDG Andy Uram. The drive-by was arranged in the parking lot at the First Christian Church.

Andy served as District Governor for what was then Rotary District 733 in 1985-86.

Andy is a Navy Veteran and served in WWII as an aviator. And, still to this day, he spends time at his office as he says "It's very boring to be at home." - Happy 100!!



How to Organize a Successful Food Drive

By Maureen Vaught, Rotary Magazine

Master gardener Alex Portelli was having lunch at an elementary school in Marion, North Carolina, where he volunteers, when two students, brothers, sat next to him in the cafeteria. “One brother pulled out his lunch and started eating,” recalls Portelli, president of the Rotary Club of Marion. “I asked the other brother where his lunch was, and he said, ‘It’s not my turn to eat today.’ I thought, ‘Oh, no. Not during my lifetime.’ That’s the type of personal story that gets us involved.” Portelli is now the chair of his county’s local food advisory council, and he’s active in the Rotary Zones 33-34 Hunger Challenge.

Rotary members in many places hold collection drives to help people, particularly families with children, get the food they need. As the coronavirus pandemic continues to affect jobs and school food programs, that need is growing. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the COVID-19 pandemic could add as many as 132 million people to the total number of undernourished in the world this year.

Want to organize a food drive in your community? Here are some ideas and tips to help ensure success.

1 - Choose a group to support

If you’re not sure whom to help, contact your local food bank or pantry for suggestions. “In some cases, towns are too small to have a local food bank, but Rotary can connect them with a larger food bank,” says Billi Black, a Zone 33 assistant regional public image coordinator. Then work with the group to address its needs.

2 - Make a logistics plan

Form a committee to determine when, where, and how you’ll hold your drive. Get your members’ input and tap into their connections and expertise.

3 - Set a goal

And make it measurable: pounds of food collected, number of meals supplied, or dollar amount raised.



Look for matching opportunities from other organizations that could double or triple your impact.

4 - Promote your event

The members of the Rotary Club of Prescott-Frontier, Arizona, considered their May food drive a success when they collected an estimated 3,000 pounds of food. But they stepped up their marketing when they held another drive in June. After the club contacted local media outlets and lined up news articles, social media posts, and radio interviews, it collected 38,000 pounds of food. “It was unbelievably successful,” says member Mike Payson.

5 - Track your success

Consider naming a “food champion” in your club or district whose responsibility is to help set goals and to promote and track their progress, and to make sure members record their volunteer hours and contributions in Rotary Club Central.

6 - Thank your donors

Even if you can’t thank each contributor individually, show your gratitude by posting photos from your event on your website and on social media.

Work with a local food bank

Staffers at your local food bank have the experience and expertise to ensure that your food drive is a success. They know who needs what in your community and have

conducted many food drives, so they know what works and what doesn’t. They can also help with logistics, including publicity, choosing a location, and scheduling. “We just show up with the money, food, and manpower,” says Johnny Moore, an assistant regional public image coordinator for Zone 33.

Make better use of your funds. Because of their buying power, your dollar goes further.

Coordinate the distribution of food where it’s needed most.

Virtual food drives

If you’re looking for alternatives to an in-person food drive during a pandemic, organize a virtual one instead. Set up a page on your club’s or local food bank’s website to collect financial donations, track your group’s progress, and share updates with your supporters.

What to donate

Here are some items that food banks want: Peanut butter, Canned soup or stew, Canned fruit, Canned vegetables, Canned fish, Canned beans, Pasta (most prefer whole grain), Rice (most prefer brown rice)

What not to donate

You may have a freezer full of banana bread, but your food bank doesn’t want it. Here’s what else it won’t take: Items needing refrigeration, Expired food, Leftovers, Baked goods

Source: Feeding America

Rotary District 7305

P.O. Box 44305, Pittsburgh PA 15205

District Secretary: Sandra Rebholz

District Office: 412-429-7305

district.secretary@rotarydistrict7305.org

Visit us on Facebook

www.rotarydistrict7305.org

EVERY ROTARIAN EVERY YEAR

Rotary's Four Way Test

Of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the **truth**?
2. Is it **fair** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **goodwill** and **better friendships**?
4. Will it be **beneficial** to all concerned?

Winter Vaccinations

On a wintery November day, vaccinators across Afghanistan wrapped up warm, checked that they had facemasks and hand sanitizer, and headed out into the cold morning. Their mission? To reach 9.9 million children with polio vaccines, before snowfall blocked their way.

From valleys to muddy lanes, we look at some of the environments where vaccinators work, as well as some of the key challenges that have made 2020 one of the toughest years for polio eradicators.

Panjshir province

For some vaccinators, the first snows had already arrived. At the top of the Panjshir valley, Ziaullah and Nawid Ahmad started their day at 7am.

"We walked six hours to Sar-e Tangi and back to take polio drops to the last houses in the valley", said Ziaullah. The mountainous roads in this area are impassable by car, so vaccinators walk many kilometers to the most remote villages. Sar-e Tangi means 'top narrow edge', and the view during the long winter is of snowy peaks.

A few kilometers from Sar-e Tangi, father Arsalan Khan was proud to have protected his own and other children in the extended family with polio drops. He said, "I ensure all the children in the family are vaccinated during each round the drops were offered and of course I will keep vaccinating them each time the vaccinators visit our village".

Khan continued, "The vaccinators walk long distances across the mountain slopes to our villages, sometimes during harsh weather conditions, to bring polio drops to our doors."

"Thanks to the people and countries that support the vaccination campaigns and make it possible for the drops to reach our doorsteps."



Volunteers Abdul Basit and Misbahuddin trek up a hill in Aab-e-barik village, Argo district, Badakhshan province. Photo ©Shaim Shahin/WHO Afghanistan, Article by Global Polio Eradication Initiative

Badakhshan province

In Badakhshan, Mr. Azizullah had COVID-19 safety measures on his mind. Like all vaccinators working for the polio program, he had been trained on how to safely deliver polio drops during the pandemic. The temperature was below zero, with the first snow on the ground, as Mr. Azizullah walked through the rugged terrain from home to home, ensuring to wear his mask and regularly sanitize his hands.

Mr. Abdul Basit and Misbahuddin, volunteers in nearby Aab Barik village said, "It is cold and walking through muddy lanes is not easy, but we have to do our job. There was one case of polio in Badakhshan so that means there is probably virus circulation and we have to stop that".

Jalalabad Province

In the east region of Afghanistan, 8,530 volunteers, 160 district coordinators and 786 cluster supervisors were hard at work, aiming to reach as many children as possible during the campaign.

Dr. Akram Hussain, Polio Eradication Initiative Team Lead for WHO in the region explained, "We were not able to do house to house campaigns in some parts of the region. As a result many children were missed during the October vaccination campaigns".

Despite the best efforts of vaccinators, in October, 3.4 million children nationwide missed vaccines due to factors including insecurity, the COVID-19 pandemic and vaccine mistrust. The year 2020 has seen a significant rise in polio cases and detection of the virus in the environment, and the disease is present in almost all provinces.

The program is aiming to reach more children and tackle virus spread next year. Activities include targeted campaigns in high risk districts, collaborating with the religious scholars from the Islamic Advisory Group to encourage vaccine uptake and communicating more effectively with communities.

The incredible contributions of the polio program to COVID-19 response are testimony to the agility and adaptability of Afghanistan's program in the most difficult circumstances. Many hope that lessons learnt from this experience can be applied to achieving the eradication goal.

Ending polio requires everyone – including polio personnel, communities, parents, governments and stakeholders – to commit to overcoming challenges. As the weather turns colder and snow continues to fall, many are looking ahead to what 2021 holds for polio eradication in Afghanistan.

SAVE THE DATE

ALL EVENTS SUBJECT TO CANCELATION DUE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC



SAVE THE DATE – FEBRUARY 10, 2021



VIRTUAL ROTARY WORKS - CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONAL
SERIES #2 BUILDING YOUR PERSONAL BRAND

SAVE THE DATE – FEBRUARY 18 AND FEBRUARY 25



MEMBERSHIP SUMMIT VIRTUAL FIVE-PART PROGRAM
VIA ZOOM 6:00 PM

SAVE THE DATE – FEBRUARY 27, MARCH 6-7



TRI DISTRICT PETS VIA ZOOM (PRE-PETS SESSIONS ALSO IN FEBRUARY/MARCH)

SAVE THE DATE – MARCH 10, 2021



VIRTUAL ROTARY WORKS - CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONAL
SERIES #3 ESSENTIAL TECH TOOLS FOR MARKETABILITY

SAVE THE DATE – MARCH 11, MARCH 18, MARCH 25



MEMBERSHIP SUMMIT VIRTUAL FIVE-PART PROGRAM
VIA ZOOM 6:00 PM

SAVE THE DATE – APRIL 14, 2021



VIRTUAL ROTARY WORKS - CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONAL
SERIES #4 SO YOU WANT TO BE YOUR OWN BOSS?

SAVE THE DATE – APRIL 18, 2020



THE ROTARY FOUNDATION LUNCHEON
RIVERS CASINO

SAVE THE DATE – MAY 20-23, 2021



2021 DISTRICT CONFERENCE
SEVEN SPRINGS MOUNTAIN RESORT

SAVE THE DATE – JUNE 12-16, 2021



NOW VIRTUAL - 2021 RI CONVENTION
TAIPEI