

# The District Connector



October 2024

THE MAGIC  
OF ROTARY



2024-2025  
District Governor



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Please pray for the recent hurricane victims. As you know we have had a relatively minor hurricane within our district. Our Disaster Aide team along with many volunteers immediately sprung into action and supported the needs of the communities affected. When we took a breath Hurricane Helene hit Florida and continued spreading death and destruction all the way to Virginia. Once again, our very own Larry Agee and his teams of Disaster Aide deployed to Florida and will remain there for several months. The district foundation has a special donation account just to support the efforts of disaster relief. Please consider supporting.

33 Clubs visited only 16 to go. Clara and I can't thank you enough for the warm welcomes and support provided. We are thoroughly enjoying our visits with every club and Rotarian. We are at the point now where we're starting to see some time on our calendar to be able to support your local projects. Just today, we observed the Opelousas Sunrise club fund raiser of selling Sausage Poboys to support their "Love Fest Project". This weekend we will be with the Golden Meadow and Grand Isle Clubs for their Shrimp Cookoff Festival Fund Raiser. Invite us to your events. We'll make as many as we can.

October 24th is World Polio Eradication Day. As we keep saying, "we are so close". At this point in time, we have 50 cases from wild polio virus. Only 2 countries remain and due to the nature of these countries it is extremely difficult to reach every child. As you may know we recently had 5 health workers killed while working in Afghanistan. Our President Stephanie Urchick took an incredibly courageous step to travel to Afghanistan to meet with the leaders of the country and the Taliban. Along with WHO and UNESCO she was able to get the Taliban leadership to allow our workers to do their job. Additionally, I'm sure you heard that a new wild polio case was discovered in Gaza. Our system was able to identify the individual and trace the exact location and methodology by which the boy contracted the disease. 640 thousand doses of vaccine were immediately shipped to the region to ensure no further cases. We must keep pressing until we finish the job. I might note here that, if you're not aware that it is called Polio Plus because we're not just vaccinating against Polio, but as we install the health systems in place to support Polio eradication we are using the system for many other health benefits such as other vaccines. COVID is a prime example. Using the same systems in place throughout the world the COVID Vaccine was distributed. Rotarians can be very proud of this. Please take this month to conduct projects to raise awareness and funds for Polio Eradication. We still get a two to one match by the Gates Foundation. For every dollar you donate he donates two. Our goal is every club donates \$1500 to the Polio Plus Campaign. Thanks, for your support. I know there are numerous activities scheduled throughout the month. Please let your communities and us know about them. Have Fun!

*Craig Walling*, District Governor

#rotarydistrict6200 #peopleofaction #proudrotarian #serviceaboveself #rotaryinternational

**Zachary Rotary** is always glad to hear about the efforts of the Zachary Food Pantry and at a recent meeting, Austin Rinehardt provided them with an update. The Pantry is committed to fighting hunger and supporting families in need in their community. Every week, they provide essential food items and groceries to help ensure that no one in Zachary goes without. The Pantry works tirelessly to distribute nutritious food to individuals and families, offer a safe, welcoming space for those facing tough times and partner with local organizations and donors to maximize our impact.

The Food Pantry is open every Tuesday from 9a-11a. Families can receive assistance once a month and must be a resident of EBR Parish. The Food Pantry services an average of 2737 clients every month.

For more info contact [info@zacharyfoodpantry.org](mailto:info@zacharyfoodpantry.org)

Pic L-R Austin Rinehardt, Zachary Food Pantry, Mark Blair, Rotarian, Tamara Dayton, Rotarian, and special shy guest, Blair Babin.



Congratulations to **Zachary Rotary Club's Citizen of the Year, Cindy Shotwell**. Cindy has dedicated countless hours to serving the Zachary community through her non-profit, Must Luv Dogs Rescue, working tirelessly to make a difference. Cindy is passionate about rescuing and rehoming dogs in need, working to place them in loving forever homes. Cindy desires to be a voice for those that have no voice; those that have often been abused or neglected. Her mission statement is based on Proverbs 31:8-9 to "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves". Cindy's advocacy for and commitment to animal welfare is truly inspiring. Thank you Cindy for your compassion and hard work in making our community - and the lives of so many dogs - better every day.

Pic L-R Zachary Rotary President Elect Tamara Dayton and Rotary Citizen of the Year Cindy Shotwell



My dear fellow Rotarians,

Once again, our Rotary family and neighbors have been stricken by a natural disaster. As specific needs develop within our zone, we will communicate that information to you. You can also review the relief information that is posted on The Disaster Network of Assistance Rotary Action Group (DNA RAG) website.

I also want to bring to your attention a message from adjoining zones 33-34 that Director Patrick Eakes communicated. Please take the time to review and support. We are not quite three months into the 2024-25 Rotary year, and a second devastating hurricane has caused widespread serious damage and loss of life in several of our districts, including those in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina. The damage is massive and ongoing, and more than 60 people have lost their lives so far.

Our Communications Action Plan team has updated the disaster relief page <<https://www.rizones33-34.org/disaster-relief/>> on our zones' 33-34 website to include a donation link to support recovery efforts. This is the same page that we used for Hurricane Beryl. However, this time, we are directing donations to a bank account owned by our zones. Our Zones are recognized as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, which means that we operate as a recognized charity.

The eight districts in Florida have worked together effectively to address needs following two hurricanes in the last two years, and they have provided a powerful model that can be a starting point for us. Our plan is to collect donations through our website and assemble a team of experienced Rotary leaders to make recommendations about how to disperse the donations to create the maximum positive effect. We will also rely on Rotary leaders in the affected districts to determine the highest priorities in their areas and how to address them. Together, we will work to address as many needs as possible.

I encourage you to consider directing Rotarians, Rotary and Rotaract Clubs, and friends of Rotary to our disaster relief page <<https://www.rizones33-34.org/disaster-relief/>>. I have already done the same with an RI Director-Elect who inquired what his districts and clubs can do to support us.

I expect to have additional information for you in the coming days. Until then, I send my prayers to all of you whose districts have been affected by this storm.

Patrick

The QR code will also direct you to the Zones 33-34 website.

Many thanks,

Beth Stubbs,  
Director 2023-2025, Rotary International  
Zones 30&31 Institute Convener 2023  
(865) 207-8772



**Designing your Rotary Experience** is a handy how-to guide that gives ownership of one's Rotary Journey to the individual member – whether a Rotarian or a Rotaractor. For some, Rotary has found them, while others have found Rotary. Whatever road has brought us together, we still have our own magical service journey to embark upon.

This guide is organized into four areas:

- 1. Make Connections**
- 2. Participate in meaningful service**
- 3. Become a leader**
- 4. Expand your perspective.**



Each section has several thought-provoking ideas that can quickly expand your horizons, guide you in personal growth, or help you engage your club and community in a meaningful way. The beauty of this document is that it gives the individual member ownership of their service journey with Rotary. To download a copy of this document, please click below.

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/2dahqdo4ttsh53uprzpgw/Designing-your-Rotary-Experience-Oct-Newsletter.pdf?rlkey=d5ph7lncs4l2uo5bbeqx0wxd3&dl=0>

## **2025 ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION, JUNE 21-25, CALGARY**



Embark on an exhilarating journey of connection and inspiration at the 2025 Rotary International Convention in Calgary! Engage in riveting discussions, learn from distinguished speakers, and explore enlightening breakout sessions against the backdrop of Calgary's picturesque beauty nestled amid the Canadian Rockies.

Fueled by friendship and a spirit of collaboration, exchange best practices, ignite innovative projects, and form lifelong connections with fellow changemakers from around the world.

**REGISTER NOW!**

Take part in this transformative, one-of-a-kind event and experience the Magic All Around.

**October 24TH is [World Polio Day](#)**, a day when Rotarians, public health advocates, and supporters focus on raising awareness and resources for the worldwide effort **to eradicate polio**.

Rotary began this fight in 1979 with a project to immunize 6 million children in the Philippines. This successful project inspired Rotary leaders to make polio eradication a top priority. In 1985, Rotary launched the PolioPlus program, the first and largest internationally coordinated private-sector support of a public health initiative. It aimed to provide polio vaccines to children worldwide and support the infrastructure needed for immunization campaigns.

In 1988, Rotary became a founding partner of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), alongside the World Health Organization (WHO), the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and UNICEF. In 2007, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation agreed to match Rotary's contribution and increased its match to \$2-to-\$1 in 2013.

Rotary and its partners have immunized more than 2.5 billion children against polio in 122 countries. As a result of these efforts, polio cases have been reduced by 99.9%. Many feel we would have completed the job except for civil unrest, political instability, and logistical difficulties in Afghanistan and Pakistan that have made immunization efforts difficult and dangerous.

Rotary's contributions have included more than \$2.1 billion in funding and countless volunteer hours. Rotary's advocacy efforts, crucial in securing political and financial support, have successfully lobbied governments to contribute over \$10 billion to the cause. Total contributions to the effort have exceeded \$12 billion.

Through continued financial support, advocacy, and hands-on involvement, Rotary has demonstrated the impact of global cooperation and community action in tackling one of the world's most persistent public health challenges. The journey to eradicate polio is a testament to the power of global cooperation and sustained public health efforts.

What are your plans to celebrate [World Polio Day](#) and to further the effort to eradicate the polio virus? Click below for information and ideas.



Christy Mamou visited **The Zachary Rotary Club** recently to make them aware of a recent event highlighting Suicide Awareness. This event was a chance for the community to come together, remember those we've lost, and raise awareness about mental health challenges. By walking side by side, the community showed their support for those struggling and helped break the stigma surrounding mental health and suicide.

Hosted by Caring Minds Counseling and Consulting Services, LLC the 3rd annual Suicide Awareness Walk was on Saturday, September 28th from 9a - 1pm and started downtown Zachary by the gazebo. There was free food, live DJ, resources and fitness session.

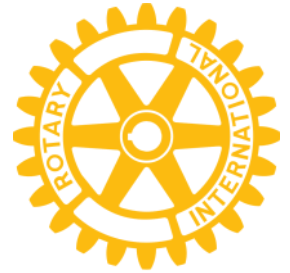
Pic L - R Dr Christy Mamou and Rotarian Lisa Rioux



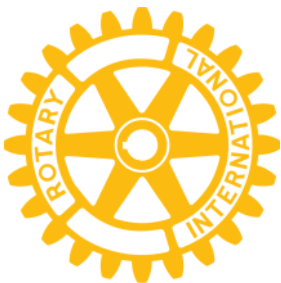
Recently, **Zachary Rotarians** welcomed Laila Ramos, a senior at West Feliciana High school. Laila is the founder of Hope Resuscitated, a non-profit organization focused on raising awareness about the opioid overdose crisis and life-saving importance of Narcan availability. Laila explained that Narcan can reverse opioid overdoses and widespread access is critical in preventing tragic losses. For more information visit [hope-resuscitated.org](http://hope-resuscitated.org).

Pic L-R Zachary Rotary President Heather Prejean, Juanita Tortorich, Laila Ramos, Cierra Ramos, and Rotarian Tamara Dayton

The **Rotary Club of Welsh** joined forces with the **Rotary Club of Jennings** to participate in the **Jeff Davis Communities Against Domestic Abuse** annual fundraiser. Rotarian Bernadine Daboval cooked smothered okra from her own garden with sausage for the event. The clubs placed first in the side dish competition and helped a great cause!



Rotary



Rotary



On September 29, 2024, several Welsh High School Interact members volunteered to help with the **Rotary Club of Welsh** Barbecue fundraiser. They bagged all the meals and delivered to several vehicles as well. The Interact members earned service hours for their efforts. The proceeds from the Rotary barbecue help fund scholarships and other service projects in the community.



## **SOCIAL MEDIA MONTHLY TIP...***Engage With Purpose and Connect with Respect*

Social media is most rewarding when you engage with content that enriches your life. Comment on family members' posts to feel closer to them, join groups that align with your hobbies and don't hesitate to share your own stories and insights.

The internet can sometimes feel like the Wild West, with differing opinions and heated discussions. Remember to treat others with respect, even when you disagree, and avoid sharing personal information in public forums.

To see more great **PEOPLE OF ACTION** stories in District 6200, follow us on Social!  
#peopleofaction

