

NOVEMBER  
2024  
EDITION

# COSMO wheels

Monthly Bulletin  
— OF THE —

Rotary Club of Port Harcourt  
Cosmopolitan  
District 9141, Nigeria  
Chartered August 10th, 2017



**STEPHANIE A. URCHICK**  
President, Rotary International



**CHINEDU IKEGWANI**  
District Governor, 2024/25



**YVONNE S. IWO-BROWN**  
Rotary President, 2024-2025

Meets Thursday at 1:00pm, Faraah Coffee Lounge, 37A Aba Road  
Port Harcourt

## National Anthem

Nigeria, we hail thee  
Our own dear native land  
Though tribes and tongues may differ  
In brotherhood, we stand  
Nigerians all are proud to serve  
Our sovereign Motherland.

Our flag shall be a symbol  
That truth and justice reign  
In peace or battle honour'd,  
And this we count as gain,  
To hand on to our children  
A banner without stain.

O God of all creation  
Grant this our one request.  
Help us to build a nation  
Where no man is oppressed  
And so with peace and plenty  
Nigeria may be blessed.

## Rotary Grace

Oh Lord and Giver of all Good  
We thank thee for our daily food  
May Rotary friends and Rotary ways  
Help us to serve thee all our days.

## Rotary Prayer

Inspire Rotarians Lord we ask  
To live as we profess  
To dignify our daily task  
And serve in selflessness

For fellowship which here we share  
We offer thanks to thee  
We pray that it will be our care  
To spread it bounteously

## Rotary Code of Conduct

### As a Rotarian, I will:

1. Act with integrity and high ethical standards in my personal and professional and professional life.
2. Deal fairly with others and treat them and their occupations with respect.
3. Use my professional skills through Rotary to: mentor young people, help those with special needs, and improve people's quality of life in my community and in the world.
4. Avoid behavior that reflects adversely on Rotary or other Rotarians.
5. Help maintain a harassment-free environment in Rotary meetings, events and activities, report any suspected harassment, and help ensure non-reliance to those individuals that report harassment.



## Rotary Guiding Principles; Object of Rotary

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster;

**FIRST:** The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

**SECOND:** High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society

**THIRD:** The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;

**FOURTH:** The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.;

## The Four Way Test

The 4 Way Test Of the things we think, say or do can be applied profitably in relations with others in the home, community, business, national and international life; particularly to proposed plans, policies, statement and advertising in business and the professions, to proposed legislation in government and to relations between teachers and students in school.

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?

**STEPHANIE A. URCHICK**  
President, Rotary International  
*President 2024-25*



## RI President's Message

One of Rotary's greatest strengths is the ability of our members to come together to create lasting change, and The Rotary Foundation helps us transform dreams of change into reality.

From eradicating polio to building peace, much of the work we do around the world would not be possible without our continued support of our Foundation.

The cause of peace is especially important to me, and one of the most effective ways we build peace is our Rotary Peace Fellowship — a product of The Rotary Foundation. The program helps current and aspiring peace and development professionals around the world learn how to prevent and how to end conflict.

Thanks to a \$15.5 million gift from the Otto and Fran Walter Foundation, we can continue supporting peacebuilders in more regions with the next Rotary Peace Center, at Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul.

Opening yet another peace center is a monumental achievement that we will celebrate at the 2025 Rotary Presidential Peace Conference in Istanbul.

The three-day conference 20-22 February will highlight the many ways our family of Rotary advocates for peace. Keynote speakers, panel discussions, and breakout sessions will allow us to share ideas about building peace and foster meaningful conversations about promoting peace everywhere.

Registration for the Presidential Peace Conference is open. I hope to see you there, but if you can't make it, our Foundation offers so many ways to change the

world for the better. November is Rotary Foundation Month, a great time to get to know your Foundation better and pursue causes that appeal to you.

Global grants support large international activities with sustainable, measurable outcomes in Rotary's areas of focus. By working together to respond to pressing community needs, clubs and districts strengthen their global partnerships.

District grants fund small-scale, short-term activities that address needs in your community and in communities abroad. Each district chooses which activities it will fund with these grants.

Our Foundation can even help you support our wonderful youth programs, including Rotary Youth Exchange, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, and Interact.

Your gifts to our Foundation also make Programs of Scale possible. These are long-term projects that seek to solve otherwise intractable problems.

To ensure these good works continue beyond our lifetimes, it is up to us to reach our ambitious Rotary Endowment goal of \$2.025 billion by 30 June 2025.

The Magic of Rotary does not appear out of nowhere. We create the magic with every new member inducted, every project completed, and every dollar donated to our Foundation.

Please join me in supporting The Rotary Foundation, and together, we will change the world for the better.

# District Governor's Message

## Fellow Rotarians

November is a time for us to celebrate our achievements in Rotary made possible by our foundation "The Rotary Foundation"

It is also a time for us to show our love for humanity and Rotary through Giving.

The Rotary Foundation is not just a place or a building. It is an experience, one that lives in our hearts and hands as we do good in the world. Our Foundation enables us to transform dreams of change into reality.

The foundation is for all of us.

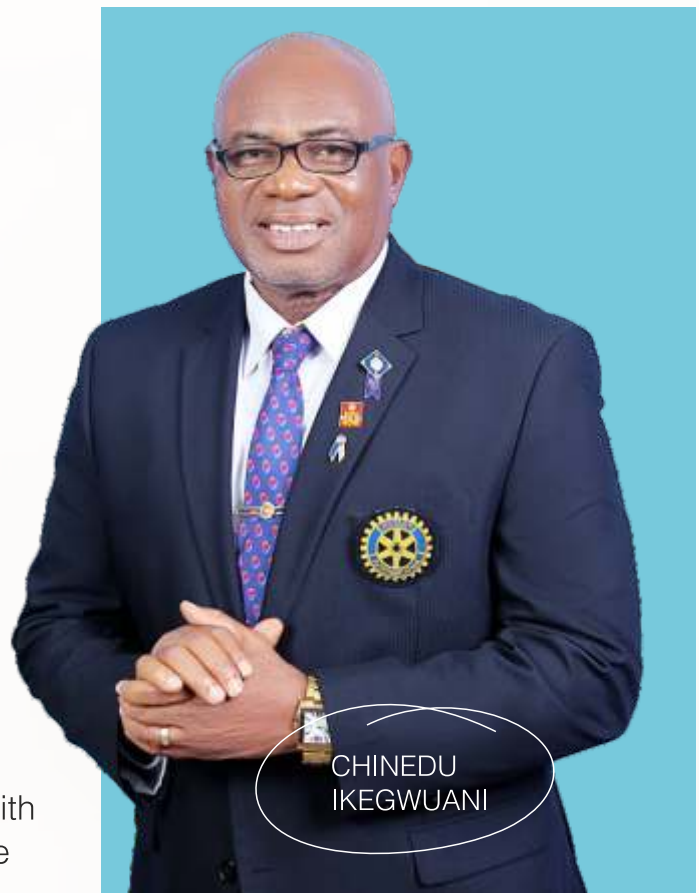
Find a way through which you and your club can support Foundation-led efforts like polio eradication, disaster response, or the Rotary Peace Centers.

The global grants is one avenue the Rotary Foundation supports international humanitarian projects with sustainable, measurable impacts through the Rotary's areas of focus. Rotary Clubs and Districts positively strengthen their grips on potential partners using this tool.

While global grant is macro and far reaching through our international partners, District grants solve immediate problems in our communities even outside the rotary's areas of focus.

Dear friends, I hope and believe that you all registered for the Polio/Rotary Foundation Seminar. Take a special seat at the closing dinner by giving to foundation.

December 3rd is giving Tuesday, don't let it slide.



CHINEDU  
IKEGWUANI

Remember the Individual

and Rotary Club with the highest contribution will be handsomely recognised.

Finally, let's be passionately magical in this month of Giving, remember...

'Giving is not the exclusive right of the rich'

...Pearl Ijeoma Okoro.

**CHINEDU IKEGWUANI**

District Governor



**Yvonne S. Iwo-Brown**  
*Rotary President 2024-2025*

Dear friends, Welcome to November, Rotary Foundation Month, after a very busy October.

Thanks to everyone who took part in all our activities last month. The Rotary Foundation transforms your donations into projects that change lives both close to home and around the world. As the charitable arm of Rotary International, we form part of a global network of Rotarians who invest their time, money, and expertise into our priorities, such as eradicating polio and promoting peace. Foundation grants empower Rotarians to approach challenges such as poverty, illiteracy, and malnutrition with sustainable solutions that leave a lasting impact.

Strong financial oversight, a stellar charity rating, and a unique funding model mean that we make the very best of your contribution. Give to the Foundation and become a part of Rotary's life-changing work!

The collective leadership and expertise of our members worldwide helps us tackle some of the world's biggest challenges, locally and globally. We are united by common values and vision for the future as we sharpen our focus with targeted specific causes that will reach communities most in need.

#### HISTORY OF THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

At the 1917 convention, outgoing RI President Arch C. Klumph proposed to set up an endowment "for the purpose of doing good in the world." In 1928, it was renamed The Rotary Foundation, and it became a distinct entity within Rotary International. In 1929, the Foundation made its first gift of \$500 to the

International Society for Crippled Children.

When Rotary founder Paul Harris died in 1947, contributions began pouring into Rotary International, and the Paul Harris Memorial Fund was created to build the Foundation. In 1947, the Foundation established its first program, Fellowships for Advance Study, later known as Ambassadorial Scholarships. From 1965-66, three programs were launched: Group Study Exchange, Awards for Technical Training, and Grants for Activities in Keeping with the Objective of The Rotary Foundation, which was later called Matching Grants. In 1978, Rotary introduced the Health, Hunger, and Humanity (3-H) Grants. The first 3-H Grant funded a project to immunize 6 million Philippine children against polio. 1985: The PolioPlus program was launched to eradicate polio worldwide. From 1987-88, the first peace forums were held, leading to Rotary Peace Fellowships. 2013 brought the district, global, and packaged grants to enable Rotarians around the world to respond to the world's greatest needs.

Since the first donation of \$26.50 in 1917, the Foundation has received contributions in billions and has spent over \$4 billion on life changing sustainable projects around the globe. Donate to the foundation to be part of the global effort to bring meaningful and sustainable changes around the globe.



***World Polio Day: Celebrating Progress and Renewing the Fight in Nigeria by Richard Ogbechie***

October 24 marked another significant World Polio Day, a global event aimed at raising awareness and celebrating milestones in the ongoing battle against polio. This year's commemoration in Nigeria held special significance as the country reflected on its journey from being one of the last strongholds of the virus to achieving a major health milestone—certified polio-free status in 2020. Yet, as the nation celebrates, the event served as a reminder that vigilance is vital to sustaining these hard-won gains.

**A Nation's Journey from Struggle to Triumph**

The eradication of polio in Nigeria was no small feat. In the early 2000s, the country was the epicenter of polio cases, accounting for more than half of the world's cases. Decades of concerted efforts involving local and international organizations, government bodies, and community health workers were required to overcome challenges such as inaccessible terrains, vaccine

hesitancy, and political instability. It took grassroots efforts, like door-to-door vaccination campaigns, education initiatives, and robust surveillance systems, to bring the virus under control.

World Polio Day 2024 in Nigeria served as a poignant reminder of these victories. Across the country, events were held to honor the work of healthcare professionals, volunteers, and policymakers who made the eradication possible. Celebratory parades, community outreach programs, and panel discussions were common features of the day's activities.

**Sustaining the Victory: The Ongoing Battle**

While Nigeria was declared polio-free, the country, like many others, continues to face challenges. The shadow of vaccine-derived polio strains, which can emerge in areas with low immunization coverage, has emphasized the importance of maintaining high vaccination rates. This year's World Polio Day underscored the need for continued investment in routine immunizations and health infrastructure.

Experts gathered at events across the nation to discuss strategies to prevent any resurgence. In Abuja, a symposium led by leading health experts and policymakers focused on the theme "Beyond

Eradication: Ensuring a Polio-Free Future." Topics included the role of digital tools in enhancing disease surveillance, the importance of community involvement, and lessons learned from Nigeria's successful eradication campaign.

### The Power of Collaboration



The World Health Organization (WHO), Rotary International, the Nigerian government, and numerous NGOs have been pillars in Nigeria's fight against polio. These partnerships were lauded throughout World Polio Day celebrations. Rotary International, a key partner through its End Polio Now campaign, was especially active, hosting vaccination drives and educational programs in various states.

"The eradication of polio in Nigeria is proof that when the world works together, no challenge is insurmountable," said Dr. Ifeanyi Maduka, a public health advocate who spoke at the event in Lagos.

### Renewing Commitments: The Path Forward

Speakers emphasized the necessity of not only maintaining polio eradication efforts but integrating them into broader health initiatives. Polio infrastructure has significantly contributed to addressing other health challenges such as measles outbreaks and COVID-19 vaccinations. With healthcare systems already bolstered by polio eradication campaigns, the foundation is set for a more comprehensive approach to public health.

In communities across Nigeria, local celebrations showcased the resilience and dedication of health workers who have, for years, worked tirelessly to vaccinate children, often overcoming barriers such as floods, insurgency, and logistical difficulties. Testimonials from mothers who shared stories of their children's improved health and community leaders who pledged continued support were heartwarming highlights that showcased the human face behind the statistics.

### Educating the Next Generation



World Polio Day was also an opportunity to involve the youth in the country's health narrative. Schools in cities like Kano and Port Harcourt hosted special assemblies that taught students about the importance of vaccination and public health. Such educational initiatives ensure that the next generation remains informed and committed to safeguarding Nigeria's polio-free status.

### Conclusion: A Day of Reflection and Resolve

As Nigeria marked World Polio Day 2024, it celebrated not only its achievements but also its determination to remain vigilant. The day was a stark reminder that the fight against polio is not just a medical battle but a comprehensive social effort involving awareness, education, and collective action. With eyes set on the future, Nigeria aims to maintain its polio-free status and utilize the lessons learned to fortify its health systems against any future outbreaks.

Through resilience, collaboration, and commitment, Nigeria's World Polio Day 2024 was not only a celebration of past victories but a clarion call for continued action. As the country stands as a beacon of hope in the global fight against polio, it sends a powerful message: when communities unite with purpose, health victories are possible, and a brighter, healthier future awaits.







# The Rotary Foundation: *A Beacon of Global Humanitarian Efforts*

by *Richard Ogbechie*

In a world often marked by challenges, from health crises to social inequalities, the importance of dedicated efforts to create positive change cannot be overstated. The Rotary Foundation stands as a paragon of hope, channeling the collective goodwill and energy of over a million Rotary members worldwide into impactful humanitarian projects. As the organization celebrates years of service, there has never been a better time to understand and support its mission.

## **The Heartbeat of Rotary's Mission**

Founded in 1917, The Rotary Foundation has grown from a modest start to become one of the most influential philanthropic organizations in the world. Its mission is simple yet profound: to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty.

What sets The Rotary Foundation apart is its unique structure, driven by the active participation of local Rotary clubs. Each member club takes part in designing and implementing initiatives tailored to the specific needs of their communities. This grassroots approach ensures that projects funded by the Foundation are relevant, impactful, and

sustainable.

## **Transformative Initiatives Across the Globe**

The Rotary Foundation's work is wide-ranging, covering a spectrum of essential areas including peacebuilding, disease prevention, clean water and sanitation, maternal and child health, education, and economic development.

### **1. Polio Eradication**

Perhaps most famously, The Rotary Foundation is a major force behind the global push to eradicate polio. The End Polio Now campaign has vaccinated over 2.5 billion children since its inception, thanks to the tireless work of Rotary members and their partners, including the World Health Organization and UNICEF. In 2020, Nigeria's declaration as polio-free marked a major victory, showing that a future without polio is within reach.

### **2. Education and Literacy Programs**

In many developing regions, access to quality education remains a challenge. The Rotary Foundation supports programs that build schools, train teachers, and provide essential learning materials to communities in need. The results are tangible—children who would have otherwise been

denied an education are given the opportunity to learn, grow, and contribute to their societies.

### 3. *Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene*

Clean water and adequate sanitation are basic human rights, yet millions still lack access to these necessities. Rotary's WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) initiatives aim to change that by constructing wells, modernizing sanitation systems, and educating communities on hygiene practices. These efforts not only improve health but also create a ripple effect that boosts school attendance, especially for young girls who are often disproportionately affected by inadequate facilities.

#### *How You Can Support The Rotary Foundation*

Supporting The Rotary Foundation means supporting tangible, lasting change. Here's how individuals and organizations can contribute to this global movement:

**Donate:** Contributions to The Rotary Foundation go directly into funding life-changing projects worldwide. Donors can target specific areas of interest, whether it be eradicating disease, supporting education, or promoting peace.

**Participate in Fundraising:** Many Rotary clubs organize local fundraising events such as charity runs, concerts, and galas. Attending these events not only helps raise essential funds but also fosters a sense of community spirit.

**Volunteer:** Beyond financial contributions, giving your time can have a profound impact. Whether joining a local Rotary club or participating in a service project, volunteers are at the heart of the Foundation's success.

**Advocate:** Spread the word about the work The Rotary Foundation is doing. Use your social media platforms, talk to friends, and engage in discussions that raise awareness about the Foundation's projects

and initiatives.

**Stories of Impact:** Real People, Real Change  
The beauty of The Rotary Foundation lies in its human stories. In India, a Rotary-led project provided cataract surgeries for thousands, restoring not just sight but the ability to work and support families. In Uganda, wells funded by the Foundation brought clean water to remote villages, reducing waterborne diseases and allowing children to attend school instead of walking miles for water.

In conflict zones, peace fellows sponsored by The Rotary Foundation are working as mediators and community leaders, helping to rebuild trust and lay the groundwork for stability.

#### *The Future of Rotary's Philanthropy*

As we look to the future, The Rotary Foundation aims to expand its reach, adapt to emerging global challenges, and innovate with new methods for creating positive change. Climate resilience and digital literacy have emerged as new areas of focus, ensuring that Rotary remains at the forefront of global service.

**The call to action is clear:** the world needs the commitment and compassion that The Rotary Foundation embodies. Whether you donate, volunteer, or simply share the stories of its transformative work, your support amplifies their impact. Join Rotary in making a world where peace, health, and opportunity are not privileges but rights for everyone, everywhere.

Together, we can ensure that The Rotary Foundation continues to be a beacon of hope and a force for good in a world that needs it more than ever.

# Snippets of 2024 World Polio Day Events



# Celebration OF THE MONTH



## Hope Georgewill

Call name:  
Birthday

Hope  
26th November



## Nimi & Abiye Membere

Call name:  
Anniversary

Abiye  
19th November



# NOVEMBER

## The Rotary Foundation Month

**November Emphasis:** "Rotary International's masterpiece is The Rotary Foundation.....it transforms our most daring dreams into the most splendid realities....The Rotary world and even the political world are already aware that the Rotary Foundation is the most generous expression of Rotarian generosity- a generosity that not only brings benefits, but also brings help and cooperation to solve the problems that affect mankind.....only God achieves the impossible, but the Rotary Foundation achieves the best that mankind can possibly achieve".

DATE	TODAY AT ROTARY	ROTARY INFORMATION	THE BULLETIN TODAY
NOV 7th	Making Rotary Work For You: Programmes of the Rotary Foundation PDG Virginia Major		
NOV 14th	Business Meeting		
NOV 21st	Club Rotary Foundation Seminar		
NOV 28th	International Night/Fundraising		



# MAGIC ALL AROUND

21-25 JUNE 2025 • CALGARY, CANADA



## MAGIC ALL AROUND

21-25 JUNE 2025 • CALGARY, CANADA



REGISTRATION CATEGORY	25-29 MAY 2024	30 MAY 2024 TO 15 DECEMBER 2024	16 DECEMBER 2024 TO 31 MARCH 2025	1 APRIL 2025 TO 25 JUNE 2025
Club member, nonmember, or guest, age 31 or over	\$475	\$525	\$625	\$695
Club member, nonmember, or guest, age 30 or under	\$150	\$175	\$225	\$275
Guest age 5-18	\$20	\$20	\$30	\$40
Guest under age 5	Free	Free	Free	Free
Saturday, House of Friendship only	\$60	\$60	\$60	\$100

All amounts are in U.S. dollars.



Register today at [convention.rotary.org](https://convention.rotary.org)  
#Rotary25

# KINDLY NOTE CHANGE OF FELLOWSHIP TIME

Rotary Club of Port Harcourt Cosmopolitan  
is moving it's fellowship time from  
**1PM TO 5PM** from **November 2024**.  
Every Thursday at Faarah Coffee Lounge

Apologies for any inconveniences

*Thank you*