

Rotary Club of Accra - Ring Road Central District 9102

Rotary Opens Opportunities

ROTARY FOUNDATION COCKTAIL

TOPIC: APPRECIATING THE FRUIT OF YOUR INVESTMENT

TUES. 17TH NOV, 2020

SWISS SPIRIT ALISA HOTEL

6:30PM

rotaryrc
Rotary Club of Accra Ring Road Central
Website - www.rotaryaccraringroadcentral.org

ROTARIAN GEETA MANEK
Rotary Foundation Trustee

USE MASK DISINFECTION WASH HANDS

Appreciating the Fruits of Your Investment

by Rotary Foundation Trustee Geeta Manek

Over the years, people who join Rotary, stay in Rotary if they enjoy it and don't stay for long if they don't get the fulfillment. Rotary is one of the finest service organizations in the world that she has had the privilege of being a part of. It gives me immense pride when I tell people that I am a Rotarian. Your reputation precedes you when you say you are a Rotarian. People know that you are credible, trustworthy, reliable, have integrity; it just says that you are passionate about people and serving people.

One never gets tired of saying that they are Rotarian. This is the best time to be a Rotarian. Despite the devastating effects of the pandemic, we hit a few exciting milestones on the African continent. A brand new Peace Centre has been inaugurated and dedicated to Rotary in the University of Makerere in Kampala; a first for Africa in about 105 years of Rotary's existence. This University certificate programme is designed for African students to address our unique African challenges. The alumni from here will join the 1,400 plus alumni who have graduated from Rotary's peace programmes who are already working in world-class organizations around the world.

Our collective efforts with our partners to eradicate the wild polio virus from our continent cannot be a more momentous achievement this year. We have come a long way; but we still have a long way to go. It's a proud moment for Rotarians in Africa to belong to this organization. We have chalked major milestones this year; we have reached together with our partners zero cases on our continent. This is one major investment when one talks about fruits of our investment; that all our hard work is gone into achieving this. However, we must celebrate with caution since just one case can undo all our hard work. We must be conscious about protecting our borders, ensure children are immunized and work hand in hand with Afghanistan and Pakistan to eliminate the wild poliovirus for good. We must also pat ourselves on the back because today we have immunized two billion children against polio. Those two billion children are walking tall without any support because they are not affected by polio. We have saved those children and this is another fruit of our investment.

Since 1985, Rotary has contributed \$2.1 billion to the efforts of polio eradication throughout the world. We launched the polio plus programme in 1985. We have committed to raising \$50 million every year in order to get the Bill and Melinda Gates matching donation of 2:1. Every year Rotary raises \$50million the foundation matches it with \$100million. A total amount of \$150 million helps us to fight the poliovirus. As an organization, we work with WHO, UNICEF, Gates Foundation and all agencies involved in the fight against polio. We will not have another child having poliovirus as long as we are careful, continually immunize, and maintain our surveillance and advocacy. Rotarians are visionaries, idealistic people who want to make a difference. We are persistent and persevere all the time in whatever goals we set for ourselves however impossible they seem; we get our results at the end of it all. We go out there into the world to feed and restore the dignity of people.

Every single day, we are not only changing the world but also saving lives through our actions and positive interventions. We have had interventions in the area of microfinance; a small amount of money to push someone is all it takes to give a little lift restores economic dignity. This allows the person earn an honest living. We build capacity when we plan vocational team training, medical facilities and water engineers. We help fulfill potential by giving a priceless hope and respect. Sometimes what we do might seem small and unnoticed but always remember that the imprint and legacy you leave in the person's life is incredible. That person will be thankful to you for the rest of their lives because of your small intervention.

In 2013, the Rotary Foundation awarded 868 global grants valued at \$47 million. Six years later in 2019, the Foundation awarded 1,350 global grants valued at a staggering \$100 million. Our success for global grants is immense. We must continue to encourage Rotarians to give because it is our contributions that keep the wheels turning to continue to provide equality and equity to people. Everyone deserves a chance. This year 2020 there is the danger of having people fall below the poverty line because of the pandemic; 100 million people will be earning less than \$2 a day. This translates into so many challenges and difficulties for our communities. Extreme poverty creates a lack of basic amenities and conflicts. Let us stitch this in time to prevent the preventable disasters.

Together, there is no limit of the good we can do. We, as Rotarians, do not only change situations but impact communities with our contributions.