

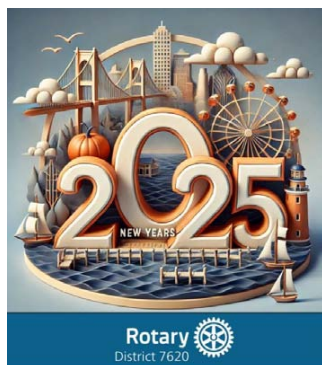
# Unveiling the Rotary

# MAGIC

Nomie Hamid | District Governor 2024-2025



## Message from District Governor Nomie Hamid



Dear Fellow Rotarians,

As we stand on the threshold of a brand new year, I want to extend my heartfelt wishes to each of you and your loved ones for a truly blessed and joyful 2025. The year ahead promises new opportunities, challenges, and moments that will call upon us to embody the very essence of our Rotary motto, "Service Above Self."

This past year, we've witnessed the magic of Rotary unfold in countless ways. From local service projects to global initiatives, your commitment has not only made a tangible difference but has also spread the light of hope and camaraderie across communities. As we step into this new year, let us continue to harness this

magic, to touch more lives, and to forge paths that lead to greater understanding and peace worldwide.

Setting goals is inherent to our journey as Rotarians. This year, let's aim even higher—not just in our aspirations for our clubs and districts, but in our personal commitments to live out the values of Rotary every day. Let's cultivate love and care in our actions, and strive towards making our global village a more peaceful and supportive place for all.

Together, we can continue to break barriers and build bridges. Let us carry forward the spirit of innovation and the passion for service as we embark on this new year. Embrace the responsibilities that come with our Rotary membership, and let's make 2025 a landmark year in our ongoing quest to bring about positive change.

Wishing you all a prosperous, joyful, and fulfilling New Year. May it be filled with health, happiness, and the enduring magic of Rotary.

Yours in Rotary,

Nomie Hamid

District Governor

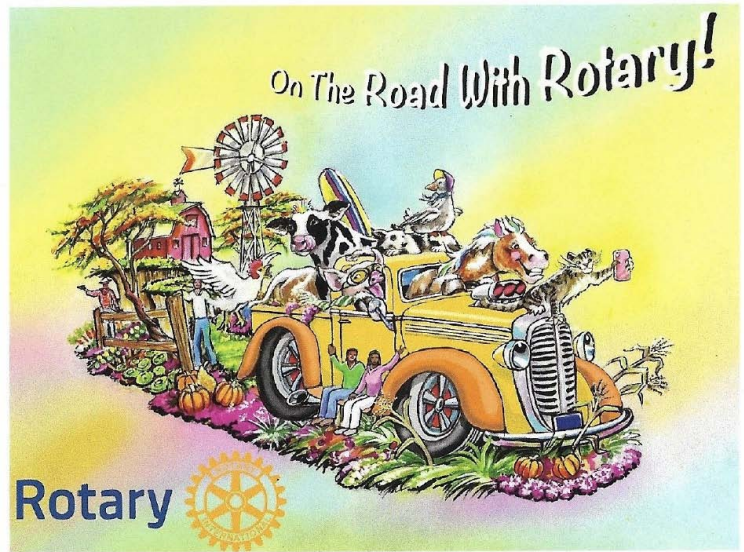


## Rotary Rose Bowl Parade on January 1, 2025

As we usher in the New Year, I am excited to continue our cherished tradition of participating in the Rose Bowl Parade in Pasadena, CA. This year's Tournament of Roses Parade theme is "Best Day Ever," perfectly aligning with the new Rotary International theme for 2024-25, "The Magic of Rotary." Our float theme will be "On the Road With Rotary."

With a vibrant spirit and creative vision, we come together to design, build, and showcase an awe-inspiring parade float that embodies the power of service and uplifts communities worldwide. Together, we celebrate Rotary's core values of service above self, goodwill, and friendship, while creating lasting memories and exemplifying the essence of being People of Action.

Join me on this magical journey this New Year's Day and become part of the Rotary Rose Parade. Together, we will continue making a difference—one float at a time. [Read More](#)



## January is Rotary's Vocational Service Month

A graphic for January Vocational Services Month. It features the Rotary logo at the top left. Below it, the text "JANUARY IS VOCATIONAL SERVICES MONTH" is written in large, bold letters. A quote by Andrew Carnegie is included: "TEAMWORK IS THE ABILITY TO WORK TOGETHER TOWARD A COMMON VISION. THE ABILITY TO DIRECT INDIVIDUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARD ORGANIZATIONAL OBJECTIVES. IT IS THE FUEL THAT ALLOWS COMMON PEOPLE TO ATTAIN UNCOMMON RESULTS." - ANDREW CARNEGIE. The graphic also contains several circular illustrations depicting various professions: a person working at a desk, a person holding a globe, a person speaking into a microphone, a person working at a computer, a person working with a microscope, a person working with a dog, and a person working with a camera.

### Vocational Service focuses on:

- Adherence to and promotion of the highest ethical standards in all occupations, including fair treatment of employers, employees, associates, competitors, and the public.
- The recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, not just those that are pursued by Rotarians
- The contribution of your vocational talents to solving the problems of society and meeting the needs of the community.

During January, Rotarians are encouraged to focus on this important avenue of Rotary service. Discussions on vocational service can lead to projects that not only develop the ethical consciousness and vocational skills of Rotarians but also the talents within their communities. Vocational Service Month is an opportunity to begin year-long vocational service activities, ranging from Rotary discussions to awards to community projects. Following are some suggested activities to undertake during Vocational Service Month:

[Read More](#)

## November 2024 Achievement Awards

Congratulations to the Rotary District 7620's Rotary and Rotaract clubs who added new members to their roles during the month of November 2024. Way to go! #TheMagicOfRotary.

They include the Rotary Club of College Park, Maryland, the Rotary Club of Greenbelt Maryland, and the Loyola University Maryland Rotaract Club.



## Red Line Happy Hour

A fun time was had by all! Thank you to everyone who showed up to the October 2024 Red Line Happy Hour sponsored by the Rotaract Club of Washington, D.C. Be on the lookout for the next one!



# Disaster Update – Year 2024 Saw Most Damaging Hurricanes

By Bob Grill, President, Disaster Aid USA; Paul Mahata, Co-Chair, District Disaster Relief Committee

District 7620 Disaster Relief Committee continues to coordinate with Disaster Aid USA to respond to disasters caused by hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods. The year 2024 saw the most damaging hurricanes.



Currently we are helping the flood victims in Greeneville, TN, affected by Hurricane Helene. To support such relief work, money and supplies are always needed, and we request that you and your club consider donating money to DAUSA. Please see below a summary of various disasters of 2024, and how our Rotary District, in coordination with DAUSA helped the victims of these disasters.

**Tennessee Tornadoes:** Between January 2 and 6, 2024 we coordinated with an Ohio team to deploy at Tennessee. A four-member team led by DAUSA's Dave Roasa conducted disaster relief work around Madison, TN. A group of 8 homes were selected for doing clean-up work and tree clearing. The team visited Springfield Rotary Club and coordinated with the club for relief work. That town was also affected by the Tornadoes. The team also worked with Hendersonville Evening Rotary Club for further coordination in that area.

**Hurricane Beryl:** Hurricane Beryl swept through Caribbean islands, Mexico, and US Gulf coast, leaving a trail of devastation in its wake, many of these communities are still facing unimaginable hardships. Disaster AidUSA was on the front lines, providing immediate relief and long-term support to those affected by the hurricane. Multiple teams worked tirelessly to deliver essential services. From RID 7620, District Disaster Relief Committee member, Vijay Kowtha, took the initiative and traveled to the Houston area with four of his students in the week of July 22 to help the Hurricane victims there. We thank Vijay for volunteering.

**Hurricane Debby & Tornadoes - Harrisburg, PA:** While the city workers removed larger trees toppled by a tornado, a group of DAUSA volunteers did cleanup of trees at Harrisburg's Bellevue Park neighborhood. Steve Nuckles and Russ Koon, two DAUSA team leaders, coordinated the efforts in Harrisburg to clean up the damage. Local volunteers and Rotarians were given some protective equipment available at the DAUSA trailer stationed there; and they helped pile up some of the more manageable branches and brush that had littered the backyards of homes and neighborhood streets.

**Tornadoes - Northeast Ohio:** DAUSA team and volunteers were able to help 9 homeowners. Dave Roasa and other volunteers (all of Grove City Rotary Club, OH) spent three days cleaning up debris and removing downed trees. Our thanks to Dale Smith who is DG of Rotary District 6630; Dale not only worked with the team for a couple of days, but also put the word out to the Rotarians in his District. The DAUSA team also got day-volunteer assistance from Rotary Clubs of Chagrin Valley, Chagrin Highlands, Burton Middlefield, Akron, Geauga West, and Chardon. What great support from Ohio Rotarians!



**Hurricanes Helene & Milton** [Read More](#)

## Leading the Way: My Experience at the Rotaract UN Days Future Global Leaders in Action Conference

As the **Rotaract President of the Washington DC Club**, representing



Washington DC Rotary and Rotary District 7620, I had the incredible honor of attending the **Rotaract UN Days Future Global Leaders in Action Conference** in Geneva, Switzerland, from October 30 to November 2, 2024. The conference brought together emerging leaders from around the world to collaborate on solutions to some of the most pressing global challenges, and it was a privilege to represent my district on this prestigious stage.



### A Warm Welcome

The conference began on Wednesday evening with a **welcome address** at the Geneva Marriott, followed by a delightful **Swiss-themed dinner**. This was my first opportunity to meet fellow attendees—future global leaders from diverse backgrounds. The conversations were rich, and the energy in the room was infectious, setting the tone for the thought-provoking discussions ahead.



[Read More](#)

**Key City Rotary in Frederick served up "Keys to Thanksgiving**

## Plenty"

Members and families from Key City Rotary in Frederick served up "Keys to Thanksgiving Plenty" two ways last week:

1. Twenty-four families at Butterfly Ridge Elementary School were supplied with ready-to-cook Thanksgiving meals, including whole turkeys and sides. Approximately 70% of the students at BRES live below the poverty line so this partnership makes notably differences throughout the year.



2. Eighty ready-to-heat Thanksgiving meals were prepared and delivered to income restrained seniors throughout the county in our partnership with SOAR - Supporting Older Adults through Resources. Both events are annual service projects that are quickly becoming holiday traditions.

## DC Rotary Club President-Elect Delivers Christmas Meals in The Bahamas

While in Nassau, the Rotary Club of Washington, DC's President-elect, Donnie Shaw, with wife Sonya and daughter, Sophia, helped deliver Christmas Dinner Meals to 10 families with the Rotary Club of Nassau...the first Rotary Club in the Bahamas since 1962.

This benevolent outreach is an annual custom of The Rotary Club of Nassau.





## Arlington National Cemetery for Wreaths Across America Day



On December 14, 2024, members of the Rotary Club of Capitol Hill, alongside Rotarians, Rotaractors, and friends from [Rotary District 7620](#), joined together at Arlington National Cemetery for Wreaths Across America Day. Volunteers laid fresh wreaths on the headstones of U.S. military veterans, saying each name aloud to honor their memory and service. This meaningful act of remembrance highlights Rotary's commitment to service and community, especially during the holiday season.



[Read More](#)

## Parole Rotary and BIG Celebrating 25 Years of the Kunta Kinte Alex Haley Memorial

On December 9, 1999, the Alex Haley statue was unveiled at the City Dock

of Annapolis. Over time, additional components were added to create the Kunta Kinte Alex Haley Memorial, including the Compass Rose, the Story Wall, and the Information Kiosk. This iconic landmark honors the enduring legacy of Alex Haley and the resilience of his ancestor, Kunta Kinte, celebrating themes of family, perseverance, and freedom.

On December 9, 2024, exactly 25 years after the Memorial's establishment, the Parole Rotary Club and Books International Goodwill (BIG) joined a vibrant community celebration to reflect on

the Memorial's profound impact on Annapolis and beyond. As Gold Sponsors of the event, the Parole Rotary Club and BIG underscored their deep commitment to fostering education, cultural awareness, and community engagement.

Patsy Blackshear highlighted the pivotal role the Parole Rotary Club played in supporting the Memorial's creation. Leonard Blackshear, a dedicated Parole Rotarian, led the charge in championing this meaningful project. His tireless efforts and visionary leadership were instrumental in bringing the Memorial to life, ensuring that it would serve as a beacon of history and hope for future generations.

[Read More](#)

## BCC and Metro Bethesda Rotary Clubs Thanksgiving Turkey Distribution

It's always special to join with [BCC Rotary](#) for our annual Thanksgiving turkey distribution event supporting local families who need a helping hand. Our teams distributed food and [Giant Food](#) gift cards to over 300 families this morning. Thank you to all of the volunteers who made this event a successful one.







## Rotary Club of Howard West donated food, toys, scholarships, etc

This holiday season, we as People of Action in [Rotary Club of Howard West](#) donated food, toys, scholarships, and bought and delivered every day items for living. We were very gratified doing so.



## Rotary Club of Capitol Hill Hosts Bowling Night with District 7620



On November 16, 2024, the Rotary Club of Capitol Hill hosted an exciting bowling night at Bowlero Bethesda, bringing together Rotarians, Rotaractors, and friends of Rotary from across District 7620. The event provided a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and fun, as participants enjoyed friendly competition and strengthened connections within the Rotary family. Strikes, spares, and even a few gutter balls made for a lively evening filled with laughter and camaraderie.

This memorable event highlighted the importance of building relationships within our district while celebrating the shared commitment to Rotary's values of service and fellowship. A heartfelt thank-you goes out to everyone who joined us and contributed to the evening's success. We look forward to hosting more events that bring our community together and further our mission to make a difference!



[Read More](#)

## Rotary Club of Dupont Circle

It's beginning to look a lot like service. In December, a few of their members were able to volunteer with the Salvation Army. Giving back is what they do best.



In November, they packed lunches for the residents of La Casa. What a time to fellowship while serving the community.

## Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club Donated Toys and Funds to Toys for Tots



[Read More](#)

## DC Rotary Foundation Community Service Grants - NOW OPEN!



We are pleased to announce that the application for the DC Rotary Foundation Community Service and Special Project Grants is now open and will close Tuesday, January 31, 2025. All applications must be submitted by 11:59 PM on January 31.

Please help us spread the word to eligible 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations serving Washington Metropolitan area residents by **sharing this information** with them. We will also be publicizing the grant opportunity via social media, news outlets, and other means -- please share these as you see them, too!

**Community Service Grants** are grants of \$1,000 to \$5,000 per organization supporting projects that demonstrate need for small capital items or "seed money" for special services that provide direct and tangible benefits to residents of the DC Metropolitan Area. **Foundation Special Project Grants** are grants of \$20,000 per organization to support larger projects that demonstrate long-term sustainability and impact benefiting DC Area residents.

Applications must be sent via the link below; they **will not** be accepted via email in PDF format.  
[Read More](#)

## Rotaract Club of Washington, D.C.

On November 18, the Rotaract Club of Washington, D.C. celebrated Happy Hunger & Homelessness Awareness week! It was an honor to have this week and non-profits like [@foodjusticedmv](#) recognized!



Thank you so much for your donation to our clothing drive! Head over to [meetup.com/rotaractDC](https://www.meetup.com/rotaractDC) to sign up for our next service event in January 2025. Watch a video of our drive here: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/14cGtzG4UL/>



## Rotaract Club of Howard University

December's Christmas Movie night and service was a success! HU Rotaract watched holiday classics while crafting fleece blankets for the animals at the Humane Rescue Alliance shelters. [Click here](#) to see the process.



Get excited for Games Day!  
HU Rotaract met at Christ House on Saturday, November 16th for some fun and play! A good time was had by all where folks brought their games and good vibes [#serviceaboveseelf](#)

## Disaster Relief & The Power of Rotary

## The Power of Rotary!

There have been a number of natural disasters thus far in the 24-25 Rotary fiscal year. The members of the Rotary Club of Washington DC continue to support our District and RI efforts to help ameliorate the devastation experienced during Hurricanes Beryl, Helene and Milton. Thanks to our Club's local Rotary



Foundation of Washington DC (currently celebrating its 102nd anniversary) and a well-structured program allowing any member to recommend disaster assistance grants, \$3,000.00 has been donated thus far to support programs initiated by other Clubs and Districts. Other Club's donations and matching dollars from various Districts and RI reaffirm the power of Rotary. Together we can make a huge difference in the world. Our Club's support of our DC Foundation makes these kinds of donations possible.

YIRS,

PP Howard Davis  
Chair-Foundation Disaster Relief Working Group  
Rotary Foundation of Washington, D.C.

### Four-Way Test

Is it the truth?  
Is it fair to all concerned?  
Will it build goodwill and better friendships?  
Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

### District 7620 Newsletter Team:

Bob Nelson, PDG, Chair  
Sean McAlister, PDG, District Public Image Chair

## ROTARY'S VISION STATEMENT

**TOGETHER** WE SEE A WORLD  
WHERE **PEOPLE** UNITE AND TAKE ACTION  
TO **CREATE** LASTING  
**CHANGE** ACROSS THE GLOBE  
IN OUR COMMUNITIES AND IN OURSELVES