



**PEOPLE OF
ACTION**

Rotary District 6920 Foundation Newsletter

April 2024

Presented by:

Hamsa Thota

District Governor 2017-18

DRFC 2023-24

District 6920

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Message from District Foundation Chair

In this newsletter, we remember Paul Alexander, a 78-year-old Polio victim from Texas who died on March 11, 2024. Paul Alexander contracted polio in 1952 when he was a six-year-old boy and spent most of his life in an iron lung. The disease paralyzed him from the neck down so he couldn't breathe on his own. He earned a law degree, passed the bar exam, and practiced law in Dallas. He was also briefly a member of a Rotary e-club.

In 2015 Paul came to know that Rotary fights to eradicate the very disease that left him almost completely paralyzed during a business meeting he had with a member in Duncanville, Texas.

"I was completely blown away by the idea. For all these years, I didn't know the work they were doing," says Alexander, a practicing attorney in Dallas. "It's such a perfect fit for me." To learn more about Paul's life in an iron lung, please click on the link below:

<https://www.rotary.org/en/remembering-paul-alexander-who-lived-70-years-iron-lung>

Few people in our communities know that the disease that killed Paul Alexander still affects children around the world. As a founding partner of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, Rotary reduced polio cases by 99.9 percent. We continue our fight to eradicate polio from the world. Please make it a topic of conversation with your family, friends, and neighbors. Ask them to join the fight by donating to the Rotary Foundation-PolioPlus Fund and complete the mission. To donate to End Polio, click on the link below:

<https://my.rotary.org/en/polioplus-fund>

The 2023-24 Rotary year has been a busy year for international service projects. With DDF from the Rotary Foundation and cash from our clubs, seven global grant projects with a YTD funding of \$681,666 have been approved by the Rotary Foundation. Four more projects with total funding of \$601,147 is pending approval. I encourage you to attend the Global Grants training session at the District Assembly on May 11, 2024, in Dublin to learn how to do global grant projects from Savannah, Savannah East, and Savannah South Rotarians who are actively working on global grant projects in Rwanda, Panama and Uganda.

My personal thanks to all of you, the Rotarians who gifted a total of \$351,831 during July 2023- March 2024 to The Rotary Foundation. Please contact me to schedule a Foundation presentation to your club. My email address is: dghamsa@gmail.com.

Polio Update: Shrad Amrit



I am from a generation who has witnessed the devastating effects of polio. When I discovered how close we were to eradicating polio, I was very motivated to be a part of this movement. It is so rare when you can accomplish something so spectacular.

Angelique Kidjo, singer-songwriter

Current Status

Since 1988, we've seen a worldwide reduction in polio cases of 99.9%. Only two countries remain polio-endemic: Afghanistan and Pakistan.

[Access the Full Case Count](#)

India was declared Polio free by the World Health Organization in March 2024.

<https://www.endpolio.org/polio-free-india-it-seemed-impossible-until-it-was-done>

Call to Action

How can you support Rotary #EndPolio efforts during World Immunization Week 24-30 April?

1. **Spread the word:** Craft a letter for your local newspaper, arrange interview with local radio station
2. **Organize an event:** Host a fundraiser that educates community members on Rotary's polio eradication efforts.
3. **Support vaccination campaigns:** Partner with local healthcare organizations to encourage routine immunizations in your community (e.g. Measles).

Highlighting District Grant projects: Anne Cordeiro

Is your club using its District Grant funds to help your community? Here is an example of how Rotarians throughout our District are working hard to make community impact locally.

Spotlight: District Grant Project Inspires Reading for Students



Macon Rotary Club member Nancy White reads “With Lots of Love” written by Jenny Torres Sanchez to students at Burdell Hunt Elementary School on October 26, 2023 for Read for the Record, a project made possible by The Rotary Foundation.

Rotarian Nancy White knows that reading at Burdell-Hunt Elementary School in Macon, GA is something that’s supposed to benefit the students, but she says the project funded in part by The Rotary Foundation benefits her, too. “Selfishly it does more for me than the young children, as I leave the school feeling inspired, connected and happy,” she says.

The project, Jumpstart’s Read for the Record, is the world’s largest shared reading experience that celebrates children’s early language and social-emotional development. The Rotary Club of Macon has selected the project since 2020 as one to fund in part through a grant from Rotary District 6920 made possible through The Rotary Foundation.

Each year District 6920 offers Clubs the opportunity to apply for a grant to benefit their community. During the 2023-24 Rotary year, Club and District grant projects totaled

\$68,006. With these funds and added matching funds from Clubs collectively nearly \$127,000 will be invested in District 6920 for projects that benefit hunger, education, literacy, environmental, medical, economic development, and other needs. The grant funds come from donations that Clubs and their Members made to The Rotary Foundation three years ago. This year, the Macon Rotary Club, a long-time champion of literacy projects, was recognized as one of the top 25 participants nationally in the Read for the Record program.

So, what do the Members do to carry out the project? Club Members visited the elementary school and read this year's designated book *With Lots of Love* written by **Jenny Torres Sanchez** and illustrated by **André Ceolin** to students in each classroom. The Club purchased enough copies of the book to give a copy of it to each student.

"Rotarians are always excited to go into the school to meet students and teachers," says Club Member Kathy McCollum. "Our club is very aware of how important reading is for elementary school students and members are eager to help them develop a love for reading and learning," she adds.

White says, "I strive to connect the kids to the story through pacing and expression and key questions. I love how quickly they warm to me, a stranger walking into their classroom. And knowing we are placing a quality picture book into the hands of each child to take home is gratifying."

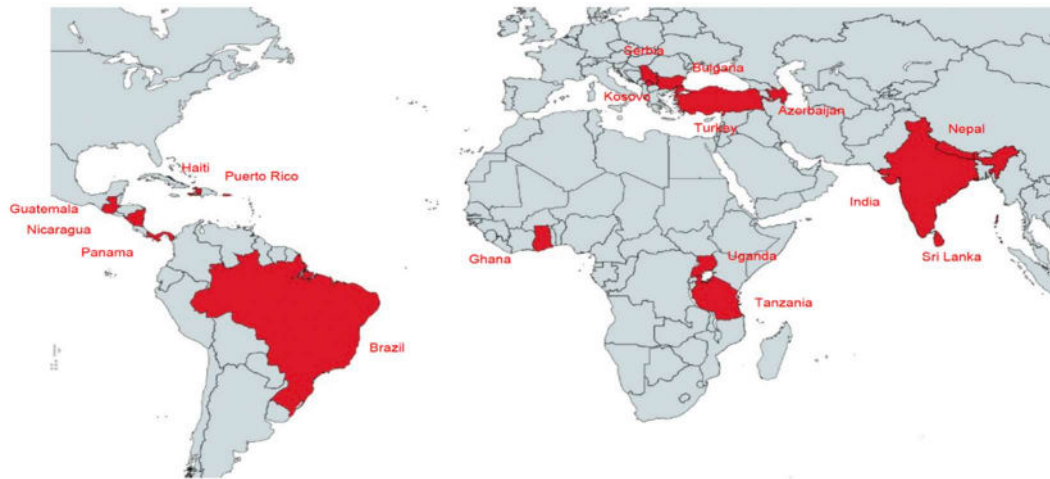
[Click here to Check out the other projects funded through Rotary Foundation Grants](#)

Thank you for making lives in our D6920 better with your service projects.

Highlighting Global Grant Projects: Hamsa Thota

During the past 10 years our Rotary Clubs have partnered with Rotary Clubs in 17 countries. Please look at the world map below (created by Elizabeth Hardin, Asst. District Rotary Foundation Chair). If your club is interested in supporting a new global grant project in partnering countries, please contact the District Foundation Chair, Hamsa, E-mail: dghamsa@gmail.com to learn more about new international service projects looking for your club support.

Host Sponsors Partnering with District 6920 Global Grants



Spotlight: Serbia

During the past three years, we completed 7 global grant projects in Serbia as part of the Rotary-USAID Global Grants Program with total budget of \$451,639.00. 17 out of 59 clubs supported these seven projects. PDG Vlada Matic and his wife Jadranka and Rotarian Natsa Losovic (mother of GRSP student Marko in Savannah) and her daughter Katarina are coming from Belgrade, Serbia to visit us during April 22-May9, 2024.

Aleksandar Radojčić
District Governor 2023/24
District 2483



GRANTS REALIZED IN 2021/22/23 IN COOPERATION WITH DISTRICT 6920						
No.	HOST CLUB	GG Number	NAME of GG	INTL.SPONSOR CLUB	TOTAL	
1	RC Senta	GG2119523	Rotary District 2483 for 100 schools-500 mBot robots	RC Savannah-D 6920	\$76,185.00	
2	RC Kragujevac	GG2236795	Years of Ascent-Mobile furniture and ICT equipment for 15 kindergartens	RC Fitzgerald-D 6920	\$38,044.00	
3	RC Beograd Čukarica	GG2234563	500 mbot robots for 100 primary schools	RC St. Simons-D 6920	\$77,235.00	
4	RC Beograd Čukarica	GG2239142	Manufacturing equipt. for 9 women entrepreneurs	RC St. Simons-D 6920	\$52,050.00	
5	RC Beograd Čukarica	GG2343274	Years of Ascent-Mobile furniture and ICT equipment for 25 kindergartens	RC Millen-D 6920	\$82,800.00	
6	RC Beograd Čukarica	GG2343865	Manufacturing equipt. for 16 women entrepreneurs	RC Augusta-D 6920	\$86,200.00	
7	RC Beograd Čukarica	GG2343270	200 mbot robots for 100 primary schools	RC Glennville-D 6920	\$39,125.00	
TOTAL:					\$451,639.00	

The visiting Serbian Rotary friends are being hosted by Rotarians from nine of our Rotary clubs. They will be speaking to the St. Simons, Golden Isles, Glennville, Perry, Fitzgerald, Hazlehurst, Savannah, Savannah East, and West-Chatham Pooler Rotary clubs about the impact our clubs are making in Serbia with support from the Rotary Foundation and in partnership Rotary Clubs in Serbia. Please attend one of the club programs to learn about our impact in Serbia. The results are impressive!

Also, Serbian friends will be attending the District Conference in Jekyll on April 26-28 and will be speaking on Saturday morning. Please plan to attend the Global Grants session on Saturday morning and take time to meet and greet them in Jekyll Island.

Club Foundation Support and Recognitions

Brunswick, St. Simons, Jekyll Island, Golden Isles, Camden County and Kings Bay-Hamsa Thota

Led by DGN Terry Adkins, the six Rotary Clubs from Glynn and Camden counties held Foundation recognition ceremony on March 21, 2024 in Brunswick with Past Rotary International President (PRIP) and The Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair, Barry Rasin.

It was an impressive and emotional ceremony with 101 individual PHF, 2 Paul Harris Society, 2 Major Donor, 1 Benefactor and 1 Bequeath Society member Recognitions.

Thank you, DGN Terry and the six Rotary Club presidents for your enthusiastic support to The Rotary Foundation. You came together and made this significant celebration possible. Together, we experienced several Rotary Moments.



Paul Harris Fellow + 8



Major Donor



Barry Rassin Speaker & past International Rotary President

Jekyll Island-Charles Collins, President

The Jekyll Island Club members have contributed \$2,240 to the Foundation since January 1, 2024. The annual contribution from the club is scheduled to be written in the next couple of weeks. Last year the club donated \$1,500 to the Foundation.

Metro Savannah-Jordan Chase, Foundation Chair

- We have 71 members and 100% TRF giving and 100% EREY giving
- 76% Sustaining members
- 5 PHS
- Annual Fund per capita is \$230.80
- Average TRF giving: \$254.34
- We have 36 PHF
- We have 14 PHF+1, 3 PHF+2, 1 PHF+3, 1 PHF+4, 1 PHF +7 and 3 PHF+8
- We have 3 Benefactors

Tennille-Tricia Bryan

Tennille Rotary has promoted sustainable giving for The Rotary Foundation, CART, and Polio Plus. We emphasize how easy it is to set up a monthly donation for each so it takes care of itself. I believe we have at least one member who is giving to Polio Plus and CART. We gave a Polio Plus Society member.

Donor Recognition by the Numbers: Elizabeth Hardin

Below are the numbers for entire District as of March 31, 2024.

- 102 New Paul Harris Fellows
- 191 Advancing to next Paul Harris Fellow Level
- 54 New Polio Plus Society members

Way to go! Thank you for your support.

Foundation Points Tips: Paula Goodnow

Did you know that for every dollar you give to the Rotary Foundation (share or polio) you get one point. As you accumulate points, you can share your points with other Rotarians, save them up and make a family, friend, or community leader a Paul Harris Fellow (you just can't use the points for yourself). Quarterly, you should check with your club foundation chair to see where you stand. You may only need a few more dollars to become a first-time Paul Harris Fellow or to reach the next level.

Final Thoughts

YTD Foundation Giving: Elizabeth Hardin

A big thanks to all individuals and clubs who have made contributions to the Rotary Foundation this year! Our giving has increased \$46.2K over this same period last year. Let's continue this trend!

**The Rotary Foundation
District 6920**

	Foundation Giving Through Mar 31 (9 Months)			YTD June 30
	2023-2024	2022-2023	Increase (Decrease)	2022-2023
Annual Fund (AF)	\$272,500	\$235,800	\$36,700	\$314,100
Polio Plus	\$55,600	\$51,600	4,000	\$62,300
Other*	9,200	3,700	5,500	5,800
Total Giving	<u>\$337,300</u>	<u>\$291,100</u>	<u>\$46,200</u>	<u>\$382,200</u>

* mostly Global Grants