

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Southerner,

On Sept 20th we marked yet another historic occasion for our esteemed club. We took another step forward in cementing our long-standing association with Ford and their Digital Literacy initiative that will have a huge

impact on the future generation and enable them to harness the power of digital.

You're all aware of the famous saying "Roti, Kapada aur Makan" - the key essentials to a good and yielding life. In today's fast-paced day and age, I believe the time has come to tweak this punchline to "Roti, Kapada, Makan aur Computer" - the key to living a worthy life.

What is life without a computer today? Can we even imagine it? Every aspect of our lives is dictated by computers of different shapes and sizes - big screens nailed to our walls, or smaller ones that fit in our palms. Our businesses, our educational institutions, our governments, and even our relationships today depend entirely on computers. Computers have been the catalyst to the current convenient, fast-paced lives that we lead. They have become an indispensable asset, a basic necessity and a fundamental right to the citizens of the world. Friends, computers can no longer afford to be a privilege. They are an absolute necessity. Not just for success, but to attain a basic quality of life.

Therefore, it is difficult to accept that so many underprivileged people in this country and the world do not have access to this basic, fundamental right. Friends, if we truly believe in equality, if we want to propagate equal rights and equal access to the pearls of wisdom, computers are where we must begin! The magnanimous Ford Business Solutions, is an invaluable partner to RCMS, one whose contributions words can't do justice to.

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'FREEDOM THROUGH EDUCATION' This Project needs your support



The pandemic-induced lockdowns directly contributed to widening learning gaps and inequality of access to education among children. A study conducted by Azim Premji University revealed that 60% of children could not access online learning opportunities. Children with disabilities in particular are more likely to belong to marginalised families, making access to education even more difficult. It is this hurdle that we are looking to address with the 'Freedom Through Education' project.

Through this flagship project of the current Rotary year, RCMS is looking to enable systemic changes in 9 selected schools in and around Chennai by providing resource support to cater to the children's emotional, social, mental, physical and academic needs. These schools were carefully chosen after a group of educationists and counsellors visited several schools.

This school-level support will then trickle down to higher-quality teaching and increased access to support in the classrooms. This project will, therefore:

- Enable hybrid learning methods and equal access to high-quality education for all
- Bridge the digital divide
- Provide access to WASH, health and nutrition services
- Integrate sustainable child mental health and psychosocial support in the school system

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RCMS - FORD DIGITAL LITERACY PROGRAM – LAPTOPS PRESENTED

RCMS and Ford have been working together to promote digital literacy in various areas for the past 10 years. Every year there is an annual event conducted to announce donations for the year and to hear feedback from various recipients on how the Initiative is progressing. Due to the pandemic, the annual event could not be held for the past two years.

On Sept 20, 2022, at a well-attended RCMS weekly meeting, Ford, represented by Ms Thanuja Balaji, Director, Global Accounting, announced the donation of 1500 computers for the coming year. Rtn R Srikanth talked about how Rotary had enabled the program to scale along with support from other NGOs as well. President Nichani emphasized that leveraging technology and using computers was a necessity just as Roti, Kapada and Makan. The event was also addressed by PDG Luke of Rotary Club of Vaikom talking about how the computers have been deployed in Vaikom district of Kerala. DG Nandakumar of District 3232 appreciated the work being done by RCMS and Ford for the last many years through which 16000 computers have been donated. Several other Rotary clubs which had benefitted from the program also spoke. The event concluded with a donation of 65 laptops to five Rotary clubs to commence the donation process for the current year.



PCKG GOVT SCHOOL PROJECT – 'STAR OF THE QUARTER' AWARD PRESENTED

As a part of the PCKG Govt School project, supported by ACSYS Investments and implemented by the NGO Kalanjiyam, the first 'Star of the quarter' prizes for the period June to August 2022, were distributed by President Jawahar Nichani who was the chief guest at a function held in the school premises on 6th September. Three students received certificates for their exemplary behaviour, attitude and academic achievements. IPP Rtn Renjit Joseph and PP Rtn Magdoom were also present.

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- Strengthen child helplines and other child-focused reporting mechanisms.

The total cost of the project is estimated at Rs 106 lakh. In order to enable this, we are seeking your support to complete the project successfully.

For more information, please contact President: Rtn Jawahar Nichani, Mob 98410 76410 or Project co-ordinator Rtn. K Prakash, Mob: 98410 43618

SUNDARI – PROJECT LAUNCH



Our district 3232 launched the 'SUNDARI' - Women Empowerment project on 28th September. Aiming to train 250 women in a year in partnership with NATURALS, this is a 3-month programme providing advanced training in bridal art, nail art and hairdo, apart from soft skills to the beneficiaries. The successful

candidates will be provided placement support by NATURALS. PP Rtn Shyamala and Rtn Bina Boaz represented RCMS at the launch event.

SOUTHERNERS GYRATE TO SPANISH BACHATA



On 10th September, we had a family participation event, the Spanish Nite, with around 100 Southerners present at Hotel Raddison Blu. The recommended dress code was a combination of red and black worn by most present and looked very alluring and glamorous. The water hole (bar counter) got into operation very early to get everyone into a blissful state as they had a huge task to perform ahead. The task was to dance with two professional dancers, who were the choreographers for the evening and to gyrate to their moves. The Spanish dance Bachata sequence started and many Rotarians,

Ann and Annettes were on the floor thoroughly enjoying the dance moves. We had four sequences and all were engrossed in learning the steps of Bachata. We also had two cut-outs for photo sessions where one had to place his/her face and take pictures. The short eats were flowing along with other colours of water and finally, a sumptuous buffet dinner was opened at 9 pm for the early birds. The party went on till 11 pm and many left the hotel with Bachata in their mind and great food in their belly. I profusely thank Ann Sheela Mukund for organizing the two dance choreographers who added value to the wonderful party.



Jawahar Nichani

ROTARACT CLUB OF ACTECH INSTALLED

The office bearers of the Rotaract Club of ACTECH were installed by President Nichani on 13th September. Rtr. Kamallesh took charge as the president for the RY 2022-23.



INTERACT CLUB OF ASAN SCHOOL INSTALLED

The new Interact team for RY 2022-23 at ASAN Memorial Senior Secondary School was installed on 14th September. The students were enthusiastic and received good advice in the form of fine speeches from President Nichani, Rtns Ajit, Kalpana and Sarvesh.



AC TECHNICIAN COURSE INAUGURATED

The first batch of the AC Technician course for the current rotary year was inaugurated on 12th September. The second batch is expected to commence in December. Each batch comprises 20 students, with a duration of 3 months, 2 hours per day from Monday to Friday. All successful students will be placed after completing the course.



WEEKLY MEETINGS IN SEPTEMBER



Date : 6th September, 2022

Speaker : Dr Cliff Saldhana

Topic : The basics of pranic healing



Date : 13th September, 2022

Speaker : Rtn Usha Kumar

Topic : Saudi Arabia - facts and myths

CELEBRATING 'LITTLE HEARTS'

At our weekly speaker meeting on 13th September, President Nichani surprised those present by organising an impromptu cake-cutting ceremony to announce our application to TRF for the third Global Grant for the 'Caring for Little Hearts' project. The cake had the words 'GGIII' written on it.



FIRESIDE HOSTED BY RTN VIJAY MENON

A memorable fireside get-together was hosted by Rtn Vijay Menon and Ann Geetu at their residence on 25th September. According to Rtn Parveen, "it was a time well-spent, with a big buffet spread and awesome food.



TRF DINNER

Rtn. K. Prakash, Rtn. B.B. Vengatesh and Ann. Anjana attended the Rotary Foundation (TRF) dinner on 23rd September at the Feathers Hotel. RI TRF Trustee Chair PRIP Ian Riseley was the chief guest. About 8 Rotarians from our District became Arch Klumph Society members (lifetime contribution of \$250,000) and were duly recognized. An art and sports auction was conducted and raised about INR 40 lakh for the foundation. PDG J.B. Kamdar was awarded the distinguished service award by RI.



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We look forward to continuing this priceless and invaluable association for the benefit of many generations to come.

Together, let's do whatever is in our power to uplift the marginalized and create a level playing field for all. Imagine a world where each child has access to a computer. Oh, what a wonderful world that would be. Let's imagine it, and work towards making this dream a reality. We can, and we will!

Yours in Rotary

Jawahar Nichani

With Best Compliments From

A WELL WISHER

Editor Rtn. PP R Seshadri | rtnsesh@gmail.com

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