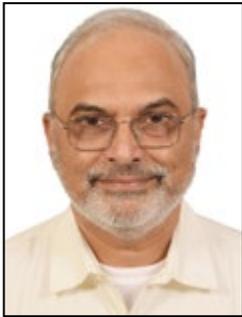


PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Southerners,

The objective of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and in particular to encourage and foster:

The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service ...

and it goes on to the other objectives.

Rotary focuses on collaboration as success of any human endeavour is achieved by team work. We thrive in a community and wither in isolation. The oft quoted adage 'No man is an island' underscores this reality.

Friendship is categorised into four types: acquaintance, friend, close friend and best friend. Rightly, Rotary has considered development of acquaintance as the objective, from there on it is for the individual Rotarian to take each relationship further. True blue Rotarians will vouch that Rotary provides one with great opportunities for service and that they met some of their best friends in Rotary.

Hence the Rotary experience is packaged appropriately to include maximum amount of personal interaction by way of weekly meetings, fellowships, family outings, District conferences and of course the Fireside meetings.

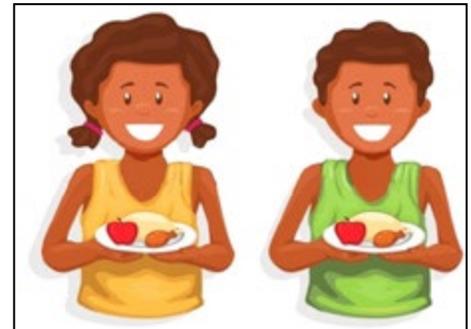
In cultures across the globe inviting a person or family to one's place of dwelling is the final step in a blossoming friendship. The families get to know each other, start sharing their dreams and 'likes and dislikes'. This is where the 'Fireside meetings' come in the Rotary scheme of things. A Fireside sort of speeds up the meeting of minds. It is a catalyst to accelerate the process of bonding.

....Continued on back page

MITIGATING HUNGER – ROTARIANS EXTEND A HELPING HAND

As rotarians we are a privileged lot. We have never had to worry about where our next meal is going to come from. But this privilege also comes with a responsibility. To ensure that we extend a helping hand to those who are less fortunate.

While around the world more than enough food is produced to feed the global population, as many as 811 million people still go hungry every day! After steadily declining for a decade, world hunger is



on the rise, affecting almost 10% of people globally. During 2019 and 2020, the number of undernourished people grew by as many as 161 million, thanks to a crisis largely driven by conflict, climate change and the COVID 19 pandemic.

People living in poverty frequently face household food insecurity, and live in unsafe environments that have low access to quality water, sanitation and hygiene and inadequate access or availability to health services and education --- all of which contribute to hunger.

Weather related events, like the recent floods in Chennai, in part associated with global warming and climate change, have also impacted food availability in many countries and thus contributed to the rise in food insecurity.

Rotarians can be justifiably proud of their role in mitigating hunger to some extent across the world. Not only have they transformed the lives of those that receive the food, but rotarians can also 'feel' the transformational experience of those that they are serving!

....Continued on back page

FOOD AND BLANKETS DISTRIBUTED



Chennaiasis eagerly await rains every year. However, for a city that depends on rains for its water supply, a good number of the residents await rain with trepidation, as a longer spell can inundate their homes, streets and at times the entire locality. For the well-heeled, it is a major inconvenience but the marginalised lose everything from utensils to documents turning the welcome rains into a nightmare.

When the rains lashed Chennai last month, Rtn. R. Srikanth's sixth sense drove him to connect with the 'Vyasai Thozhargal' the community group with whom we work in Vyasarpadi. As he imagined they were in dire straits, forgotten by the authorities and other service organisations. Soon Srikanth got into the act,

and we organised blankets and dry ration. Vyasarpadi is synonymous with rowdyism, drugs and all that is bad. Here we have a bunch of enlightened and dedicated young men and women bent on changing the image of Vyasarpadi. During the height of COVID they operated autorickshaws with oxygen cylinders to save lives of many. 'Vyasai Thozhargal' runs an evening school and computer centre apart from providing free legal aid to the not so fortunate.

On 21st November we distributed 120 provision kits to the needy. Most of the residents in this area are daily wage earners and a few days of being out of work puts them back to poverty. One of the speakers while thanking Rotary mentioned that while the middle class pay EMIs for vehicles and household articles the locals buy rice and provisions on EMI.



Rtn Renjit Joseph



BISCUITS AND BREAD DISTRIBUTED

Another initiative undertaken by our club at Vyasarpadi was the donation of 300 packets of biscuits and 300 loaves of bread to the needy impacted by the recent floods. This was a District 3232 initiative. In the picture Rtn V Mukund can be seen handing over the box containing the items to a volunteer from Vyasai Thozhargal on 12th November, who undertook the distribution on our behalf.

ANNADANAM

Monthly Annadanam for the inmates of East Eden Foundation undertaken by our club for the past several years and reported extensively in The Southerner, continues unabated, thanks to the efforts of our president Rtn Renjit Joseph and several generous donors from our club. The pictures show the Annadanam conducted on 27th November.



INSTALLATION OF INTERACT CLUB OF AKG PUBLIC SCHOOL

When President Renjit and I walked into AKG Public School on the 24th November, we were warmly welcomed and ushered into the room of Principal, Dr. Dhaarani Mohan. After spending some time with her we were ushered into a room filled with 50 plus teenagers eager to know what was in store for them.

After a brief introduction on Rotary and Interact, the new team of office bearers were installed. The 'calling to order' and 'adjourning' of the meeting was well explained and the students were amused at the way the gavel was used. The students looked sharp, had some tough questions to ask, and were curious about how an Interact club works.

The total strength of the Interact Club of AKG Public school is 56. We look forward to take up some projects in the coming days.

This is the fifth Interact club (active) sponsored by RCMS.

A big thanks to PP Rtn. Shyamala, Gen Secretary of Asan Association, Principal Dr. Dhaarani Mohan and Coordinator Meena Rani for their active support.

Rtn Ajit Gautham

Director – Youth Service (Interact)



A FIRESIDE TO REMEMBER

"On 6th November, Rtn V Shankar and Ann Sudha hosted a fireside get-together at their magnificent home. **PP Rtn S R Madhu**, who was present, best describes the memorable event.

"It was the best Rotary get-together I have taken part in. A creative approach and systematic preparation, Shankar trademarks both, were evident throughout. Take the games, innovatively brilliant and different, starting with the story-telling. The visual wordplay quiz was at once a mind game, a test of thinking on one's feet, a minor test of English idioms and proverbs, and food for thought.

The "Does this apply to you?" teaser, with points like "Have you lived abroad for more than a year?" and "Do you have more than two siblings?" was another imaginative exercise, different from the usual monotonous number-matching game that's a staple of most get-togethers.

The film song quiz was most enjoyable, particularly the playing of the song for a couple of minutes on the large and terrific TV set. The food strategy was innovative too, with a steady stream of small eats and a snacks dinner culminating in a gorgeous ice cream treat. The food was abundant without being extravagant.

Their magnificent home, with a rear room ideal for buffet dinners, made for a great ambience.

Not to mention the talented host couple and their genial and thoughtful hospitality.

Thanks, Shankar. You have shown that creativity and imagination are always winners -- whether it's a question of setting up a financial empire, running a large organization or planning a get-together of friends."



WEEKLY MEETINGS IN NOVEMBER



Date : 2nd November, 2021
 Speaker : Dr C K Gariyali
 Topic : My beautiful journey from Kashmir to Kanyakumari



Date : 16th November, 2021
 Speaker : Rtn S R Madhu
 Topic : Humour and Paradise



Date : 23rd November, 2021
 Speaker : Madhusudan Kalaichelvan
 Topic : Tapping the tourism potential of Tamilnadu

RTN BINA BOAZ – A SOUGHT AFTER EMCEE!



Bina – the golden voice of RCMS, who never fails to delight every rotarian by singing the birthday song and posting it in our WhatsApp group, (*unlike the traditional messages*) is also a much sought after emcee! On 6th November, she performed this role (*see pic above*) with aplomb during the installation of The Rotary Club of Chennai Riviera.

....Continued from Cover Page

Whenever disaster struck in Chennai, Southerners have been in the forefront to help those who have lost the security of providing food for their families. Over the years we have taken several such initiatives, be it during the floods in 2015, Vardha cyclone in 2016 or more recently the unprecedented floods which impacted thousands of families. A couple of such initiatives during November, 2021 are reported in this issue of The Southerner.

....Continued from President's Message

Today it may be difficult for families to invite friends over for a full-fledged meal. Maybe we have to look at lighter options like hi tea Firesides. Anyways a Fireside meeting is not about food but friends taking time out to meet up.

Yours in Rotary
Renjit Joseph

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