



2015-16 ROTARACT OUTSTANDING PROJECT AWARDS

INTERNATIONAL WINNERS

INTERNATIONAL – SINGLE CLUB

Rotaract Club of Bugolobi (District 9211, Uganda) for “‘1000 smiles’ Kanabulemu Edition”

The residents of Rakai district, an area greatly affected by HIV/AIDS, were all smiles when the Rotaractors arrived. Working alongside local doctors, schools, and the Uganda Health Marketing Group (UHMG) they provided everything from school supplies to comprehensive medical screenings, dental exams, and HIV screenings and prevention education. Since access to safe clean drinking water is the primary reason children miss school, the club also dug a borehole to bring clean water to the village. Aiming to “cover as many of Rotary’s areas of focus as possible” these enterprising Rotaractors were supported by other Rotaract clubs in the region as well as their sponsor, The Rotary Club of Bugolobi. [Photos](#)

INTERNATIONAL – MULTIDISTRICT

Rotaract Clubs of Districts 2420, 2420, 2430, 2440 (Turkey); Alanya, Antalya Kaleici, Atakum, Çekirge, Eskişehir, Istanbul - Galatasary, Istanbul-Maslak, Karadeniz Ereğli, Safranbolu, and District 2220 (Russia); Rotaract Club of Krasnodar for “Just Like You With An (+1) Extra!”

In collaboration with the Down Syndrome Association, 12 different clubs from four districts across two countries joined together to organize trainings for children and adults with Down syndrome. Participants learned how to apply effective communication and cooperation strategies to improve their daily lives and hone job-related skills. After successfully completing the one year training program, participants received job placement assistance through partner organizations to put their new skills to work. Club members are also working to educate local citizens about common misconceptions related to living with Down syndrome by hosting outreach events at local farmers markets and other community events. [Photos](#)

REGIONAL WINNERS

ASIA PACIFIC

Rotaract Club of Metro Cebu-CIT Chapter (District 3860, Philippines) for “Project WASHed-UP (Water Adequacy, Sanitation and Hygiene Education to Uplift the People)”

Project WASHed-UP transformed the lives of kids at Tagatay Elementary School in a remote area in the Philippines in need of clean water and sanitation. In a three-part process the Rotaractors constructed a PET bottle water tank to safely store rain water, taught the importance of hygiene and sanitation to prevent disease, and treated students with skin infections or intestinal parasites to improve overall health. Using recyclable materials was an environmentally friendly alternative to conventional steel and concrete tanks, and reduced the overall cost of the project by more than 75%. Teachers, students, and key stakeholders were involved in the development, installation, and training to promote a strong sense of community ownership. [Video](#)

SOUTH ASIA

Rotaract Club of The Caduceus (District 3140, India) for “The Jana Swasthya Project”

As doctors and medical students, these Rotaractors were inspired after volunteering in 2013 at one of the world’s largest religious gatherings, the Kumbh Mela, to establish a digital disease surveillance system to study epidemiological disease trends. Harnessing the power of mobile internet technology they replaced a redundant paper system of data tracking allowing government officials and experts to access live data in a few simple clicks. An incredible 35,000 individual patient visits were recorded, marking a landmark shift in the process of health surveillance. The government is interested in implementing this groundbreaking model in local health clinics, bringing “Jana Swasthya,” meaning public health and welfare in Hindi, to communities across the country. [Photos](#)

EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST, AND CENTRAL ASIA

Rotaract Club of Istanbul-Dolmabahçe (District 2420, Turkey) for “Still Child!”

Taking a stand against the destructive consequences of underage marriage on young women and girls, Rotaractors organized conferences in rural areas where the practice is still common. Local experts, psychologists, and doctors educated local residents how girls in underage marriages are statistically undereducated and prone to medical and psychological issues presented by early childbirth and domestic violence. Traditionally a taboo subject, they are working alongside local governments, community organizations, and the media to break the silence and end the violence. And harnessing the power of social media to tell their story, they’ve recruiting celebrities and Rotaractors around the region to show their support for “Still Child!” through videos, photos, and stories. [Video](#)

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Rotaract Club of Lagune de Cotonou (District 9102, Benin) for “Notre Bibliotheque”

Rotaractors and Rotarians worked side-by-side to convert an abandoned building into a library for local neighborhood kids and the nearly 400 children attending Zogbadjè Primary Public School. Not only did Rotaractors design, fundraise, and implement construction plans, they stocked the new library with tables, benches, and more than 500 books to give the kids a fun and inviting space to grow and learn. The first of it’s kind in the area, most of the children do not have ready access to books and school supplies. Rotaractors, Rotarians, and teachers hope the new library will continue to grow as more books and school supplies are donated to help kids of all ages reach their full potential. [Photos](#)

LATIN AMERICA

Rotaract Club of Nova Geração Itabaiana (District 4390, Brazil) for “Projeto Sergipe”

To break the cycle of poverty among Itabaina’s young people, Rotaractors enrolled 100 students in literacy and professional development courses over a period of eight months in partnership with public literacy programs. The club developed a network of community partners and volunteers that donated meeting space for classes and lectures, developed curriculum and trainings based on volunteer’s professional expertise, distributed educational materials and resources to students, and promoted the program through local radio stations, schools, and public spaces. Receiving both local and national recognition for their success, the club uses donations and grant money to provide scholarships to participants to help cover the cost of the program. [Photos](#)

USA, CANADA, AND CARIBBEAN

Rotaract Club of Birmingham (District 6860, United States) for “Ready 2 Succeed”

Currently in its second year of a two-year pilot program, “Ready 2 Succeed” matches high school juniors and seniors with Rotaract mentors to better prepare students for college. Over 75% of the program’s participants, many first-generation college students, have successfully enrolled in college programs. Beyond the program students continue to build relationships with their Rotaract mentors, reinforcing the importance of education and inspiring them to become future leaders. Through a partnership with national scholarship database company, Cappex, Rotaractors have already expanded the project to more communities by launching AchieveAlabama.org, giving students state-wide access to scholarships and financial aid. [Photos](#)