

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello My Rotary Family,

My warmest greetings to all the RCMS members and families. January 2024 turned out to be a relatively quiet month.

We had two interesting talks by a couple of good speakers – one by a Carnatic Vocalist on her life in Paris and another on Kamal Haasan, the enigma.

The last of our ten schools was given a cheque under our student scholarship program. It brings the total to

336 students being assisted this Rotary year with their fees.

The PCKG project in association with Kalanjyam is thriving and many students are benefiting from the remedial programs, mentoring, career guidance, and counseling sessions. Our Anns, Hema Rajan Babu and Kalpana Rajendran have been playing an important role in some of these sessions.

Annadhanam at East Eden continues as an important project supported by our club. In January three more patients in VHS were treated free under our Kanmani project preventing blindness due to retinopathy. This brings the total to 13 patients that have benefited from this project.

The tailoring course and evening tuitions are flourishing in Kattur, our 'Happy Village'.

The Rotary theme for 2024 -25 is going to be 'The Magic of Rotary', as announced by RI President-Elect Stephanie Urchick. She says that members create that magic with every project completed, every dollar donated, and every new member of Rotary.

Had excellent member participation in MCC with Dr.Sikkender (Physiotherapist) giving us a talk and demo on common alignment issues and their remedies. It was followed by a delicious lunch and a whole lot of bonhomie. Thanks to our member Anuradha Uberoi for organizing the speaker, venue, and food.

Our fireside meeting was held in Saravanan and Srividya's house. It was a cozy gathering of 10 of us. Wonderful food, a lot of chit-chat, great bonding.

I attended 2 events organized by my Co-Presidents. One was a fundraiser to aid the rehabilitation of cured leprosy patients and another was the launch of washable and reusable sanitary napkins at a Special Needs home.

Until next time, stay blessed.

Yours in Rotary

Bina Boaz

THE MAGIC OF ROTARY

Rotary International President-elect Stephanie Urchick announced that the 2024 - 25

presidential

theme is

The Magic

of Rotary

and called

on members to recognize and amplify the organization's power to save lives.



Urchick, a member of the Rotary Club of McMurray, Pennsylvania, USA, said she saw the magic of Rotary on display when she was helping install water filters in the Dominican Republic. Two boys were watching as dirty water entered the filter, then ran out clean at the other end.

“One of the boys grabbed my sleeve and said, 'Show me the magic again,'" she said. “Obviously, the water filter wasn't magic. We worked hard to transport those filters, install them, and work with community leaders in the area to maintain them. But those boys knew that easy access to clean water would change their lives. Knowing that I played a small part in that certainly changed my life.”

Urchick urged members to champion Rotary's Action Plan, find a balance between continuity and change, and work for peace. She plans to host a presidential peace conference in 2025 with the theme “Healing in a Divided World.”

Source: RI Website

DR SIKKANDER REGALES SOUTHERNERS

'Sunday Brunch' is a new initiative introduced by President Bina during the current rotary year. Under this initiative, Southerners visited the Amir Mahal in July, walked at Elliot's Beach in October followed by breakfast at SYNCK restaurant, and visited the AVM Heritage Museum in December. In January this year, we had an engaging talk by Dr Sikkander Kumar Jain at the MCC Club organised by Rtn Anuradha Uberoi. Dr Sikkander is a Chennai-based Physiotherapist with knowledge of 51 plus therapies, catering to all health-related issues from Ulcer to even Cancer. He provides an integrated approach, specialising in identifying the root cause of an illness and treating them with both psychological and physical approaches. He kept around 60 Southerners present rivetted with his engaging talk. He even attended to the ailments of a few members immediately after the talk. The talk was followed by fellowship and lunch.



CARING FOR LITTLE HEARTS --- SAVING MORE LIVES

The much acclaimed 'Caring for Little Hearts' project, which commenced in 2017 as a Global Grant project has saved 540 young lives till December '23. In the first half of the current Rotary year (July to December 2023), 23 more paediatric heart surgeries were performed at the Sooriya Hospital in Chennai. The picture alongside shows two of the beneficiaries of this flagship project of RCMS.



Baby Iniya



Siva

FURTHERING THE CAUSE OF DIGITAL LITERACY

Over the past many years our club has been donating computers to several needy institutions in Tamilnadu to further the cause of Digital literacy, in association with FORD India. In January 2023, 15 CPUs were provided to Geo India Foundation, an NGO based in Chennai, working for the cause of improving the lives of the tribal community. These will be used at their multi-purpose skill development centre located in Chengelpet near Chennai.



PCKG SCHOOL PROJECT UPDATE

January was a busy month at the PCKG Govt HS School in Kodambakkam. Remedial classes for students in classes 6 to 8, meeting with their parents to help with their child's academics and behaviour(see pic), individual attention for slow learners and awareness of health and hygiene practices were some of the initiatives undertaken with the help of our project associate, Kalanjyam Trust. This project is supported by M/s. Acsys Investments.



PROJECT 'KANMANI' UPDATE

Three more patients were treated for retinal issues at VHS Hospital under this signature project taken up by RCMS during the current Rotary year, bringing the total number of eye surgeries to 13 since July, '23. The project offers free treatment for retinal issues to the needy thus preventing blindness among them.



STUDENTS SCHOLARSHIP - ONE MORE SCHOOL VISITED



The School Students Scholarship project, supported by Acsys Investments, was launched in October 2023. On 5th January President Bina visited Sacred Heart High School and handed over a cheque benefiting 19 students of the school. With this, 336 underprivileged students in 10 schools have been assisted under this project during the current Rotary year with their school fees.

FLOOD RELIEF MEDICAL CAMPS HELD



Rotary District 3232 in association with Santhosh Hospitals, Besant Nagar conducted the Rotary Flood Relief medical camps across Chennai on 30th December to help those affected by the recent floods. The project was supported by several Rotary clubs, including RCMS. Dr J Radhakrishnan (IAS) – GCC Commissioner was the chief guest and inaugurated the camp at Santosh Hospitals. While President Bina attended the inaugural camp at the Hospital, Rtn Jenson Peters (see pic 2nd from left) attended a camp held at Ashok Nagar.

SPEAKER MEETINGS IN JANUARY



Date : 2nd January, 2024
 Speaker : Ms Bharati Ramasubban
 Topic : My life in Paris



Date : 9th January, 2024
 Speaker : Mr K Hariharan
 Topic : The enigma of Kamal Haasan

WEDDING IN THE KATHARE FAMILY

Rtn Anand Kathare and Ann Jaya celebrated the wedding of their eldest daughter, Neetu, at Goa on 30th January. The photo here shows a few Southerners who landed in Goa to attend the wedding and bless the couple. The Southerner wishes the newlyweds Neetu and Tushar a wonderful married life.



A COZY FIRESIDE MEETING

On 28th January PP Rtn Saravanan and Ann Srividya hosted a fireside get-together at their residence.

10 Southerners who were present thoroughly enjoyed the bonding apart from the wonderful food served by the gracious couple.



THE BOARD AND ITS RESPONSIBILITIES

As most Rotarians are aware, the management of a Rotary club is the responsibility of the Board, consisting of the elected Directors and the Chairmen of the various committees nominated by the Directors. The Board also ensures that the club meets all the requirements laid down by Rotary International for managing a Rotary club. In all club matters, the decision of the Board is final and subject



only to an appeal to the general body of the club. The RCMS Board meets on the first Thursday of every month. The picture alongside shows the Board meeting in progress on 4th January 2024, at the Cosmopolitan Club, presided over by President Bina Boaz.

THE FELLOWSHIP BASKET MOVES ON

The three Fellowship baskets launched during the installation function of President Bina in July 2023 have been circulating among the Southerners since then. One of the baskets held by Rtn Sathyanarayanan and Ann Guhapriya moved again last month when the couple landed at the residence of Rtn M C Srikanth and Ann Lakshmi on 14th January to pass it on, thus ensuring the basket continues its journey among the Southerner families.



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