March 5, 2026

Rotary District 6900

Our Rotary Foundation

# Why We Give: Enduring Impact, Fellowship at Work

YAMAHA
Enduro
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Hello, my name is
Landy Cheucarama

As we consider giving money to The Rotary Foundation, it's important to consider how that money enables us to do good in the world and the lasting relationships and friendships it builds. Here's an example of just that ... In 2022, the **Roswell Rotary Club** partnered with the Rotary Club of Panama Nordeste on a Global Grant bringing clean water to remote, underserved communities in Panama. The project delivered lasting impact—and lasting friendships. Recently, we were able to help those friends again.

Landy Cheucarama, a local village leader, worked tirelessly to help implement the grant. Recently, we learned his region had suffered devastating crop losses, and that the boat motor his family relies on for daily life had failed.

With few roads, river travel is essential, Roswell Rotarians acted quickly. An ad-hoc effort raised funds for a new motor in just days. Rotarian Langdon Hollingsworth traveled to Panama and personally delivered it—five hours away by rented truck.

In a video you can watch by clicking **here**, Landy shares his gratitude. This is Rotary fellowship at work: relationships that endure, and service that continues long after a grant is complete.

Your contributions to The Rotary Foundation can make a difference here at home anywhere around the world to make lives better. Think about how you can help. Contact me if you'd like to know more.

Posted by Lee Hollingsworth
February 4, 2026

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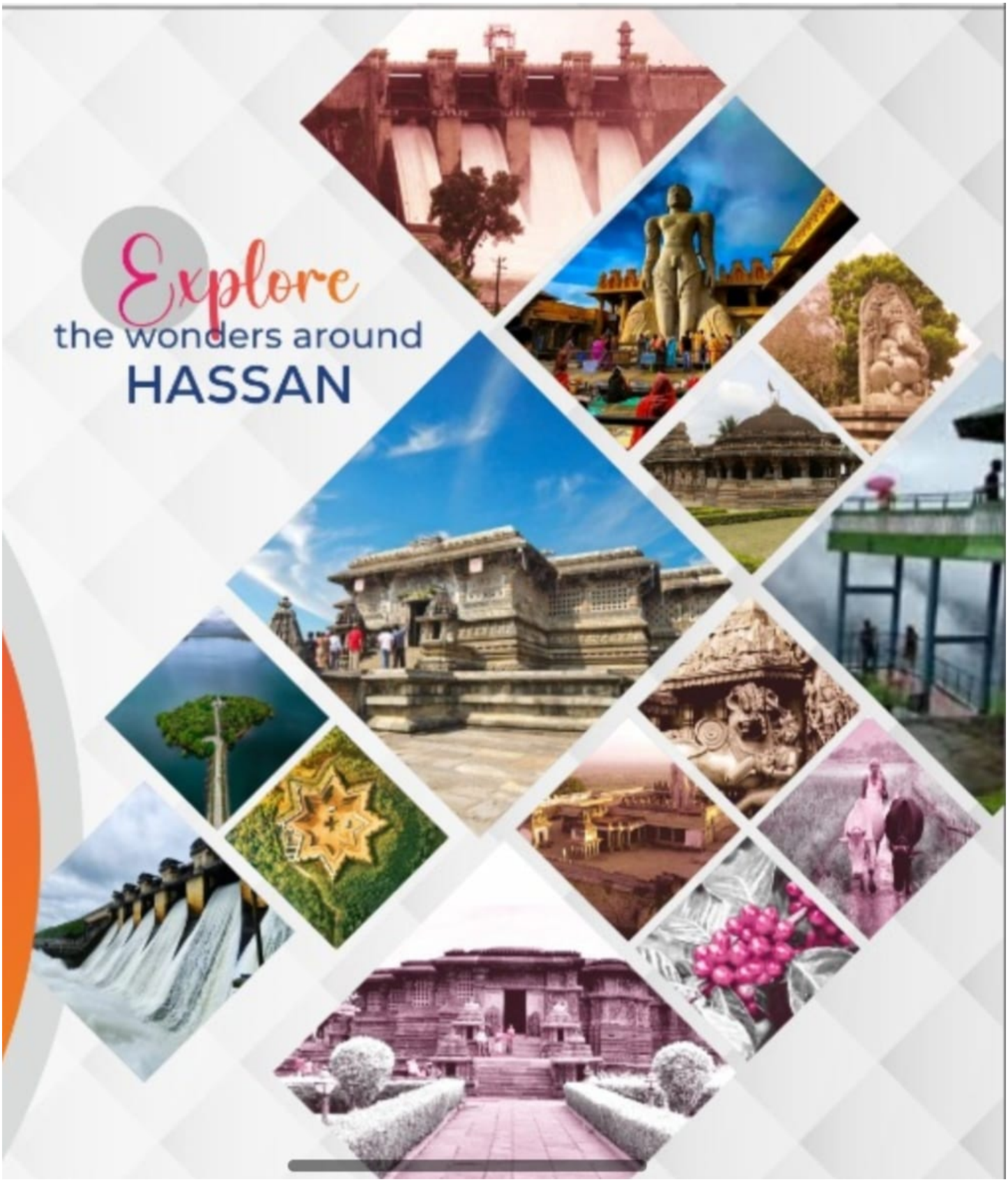
# Join Our Friendship Exchange Trip to India

by Ada Wikina, District 6900 Rotary Friendship Exchange Chair




Calling on D6900 Rotarians who are ready to engage in RFE visit to D3182 in India during the first week of December 2026.

For an unforgettable and truly inspiring Rotary Friendship Exchange, a ten-day visit (excluding travel days) would be absolutely perfect. This allows the team to soak in every moment at a relaxed yet vibrant

pace—especially important for those experiencing India for the very first time. Rather than rushing from place to place, participants will have time to connect deeply, build lasting friendships, and fully embrace the warmth, color, and energy of India.

We propose exploring the dynamic state of Karnataka in South India—a region where cutting-edge innovation meets ancient heritage, and where Rotary fellowship thrives alongside breathtaking natural beauty.

The adventure begins in Bengaluru, India's electrifying tech capital and a city that pulses with creativity and opportunity. Here, Rotary fellowship sets the tone for the journey. Imagine evenings filled with mesmerizing classical music and dance performances, vibrant culinary experiences featuring authentic South Indian flavors, and meaningful conversations with local Rotarians. Vocational visits may include world-class IT companies, dynamic startups, renowned educational institutions, and leading hospitals—offering a powerful glimpse into modern India in action. Between engagements, the team can wander through the lush greenery of Lalbagh Botanical Garden and Cubbon Park, explore the grandeur of Bangalore Palace, and experience the buzz of colorful local markets.

Next, the journey unfolds in Hassan, where Rotary service and community engagement take center stage. This is where tradition comes alive. Participants can immerse themselves in rural culture, experience captivating folk arts, and witness impactful service projects in education, agriculture, and healthcare. A visit to the awe-inspiring temple towns of Belur and Halebidu reveals intricately carved stone temples that feel like stepping into a living masterpiece of history. The hauntingly beautiful Shettihalli Rosary Church, rising from the waters, offers a truly unforgettable sight.

From there, the team escapes into the emerald hills of Chikmagalur, a paradise of coffee plantations and cool mountain air. Here, the pace softens into pure enjoyment and connection. Participants can stroll through aromatic coffee estates, learn about the secrets of coffee cultivation, and experience eco-tourism initiatives rooted in sustainability. Adventurous spirits can trek to Mullayanagiri—the highest peak in Karnataka—or explore the misty slopes of Baba Budangiri. Waterfalls, rolling hills, and endless green landscapes provide the perfect backdrop for friendship and reflection.

The grand finale awaits in Sakaleshpur, nestled in the spectacular Western Ghats. This region is a nature lover's dream—lush forests, dramatic viewpoints, and fresh mountain breezes. The team can engage with sustainable farming initiatives, visit eco-resorts, and experience village life firsthand. Exploring the star-shaped Manjarabad Fort and taking in the panoramic vistas from Bisle Ghat will leave everyone inspired by the region's natural grandeur.

This extraordinary combination of vibrant city life, profound Rotary fellowship, meaningful service projects, cultural immersion, vocational exchange, and stunning landscapes creates a journey that is not just a visit—but a transformative experience. Participants will leave Karnataka not only with incredible memories and photographs, but with lifelong friendships, renewed inspiration, and a deep connection to the spirit of Rotary in India.

If you want to be part of this team on this amazing trip, send me an email at awikina@hotmail.com or call me on 4044215825. This will be a trip of a life time. Remember, that our hosts will offer accommodation in their homes to make for an interactive visit.
Posted by Ada Wikina
February 20, 2026

RYLA Update

## LUCKY to have RYLA!

It’s getting closer to RYLA time! With all the talk this month about “lucky” things and “being lucky” we thought we’d share why we think anyone who goes to RYLA is the luckiest of all for the many positives they gain from the experience:

- Personal Development
- Meeting Other Like-Minded People
- Learning from Others
- Confidence Boost
- Teamwork and Collaboration
- Looks good on Applications and Resumes
- Inspiration to Reach Future Goals
- Opportunities to Challenge Yourself
- Grow Your Impact and Positive Influence on Others

This is just a small sample of the many benefits of attending RYLA – and this goes for both students and staff. We all gain something from the time we spend together each summer. And it’s not just us – You and Your Clubs benefit as well. Do you want to grow leaders for your schools and communities? Send a student

to RYLA. Do you want to develop future Rotary members to join your clubs and engage in service? Send a student to RYLA. Do you want to experience the energy and passion that goes into growing your students into strong leaders? Come visit RYLA for yourself!

If you and your club want to get in on all the great things that come along with sponsoring a student to RYLA, use one of the following routes to send in your RSVP:

1. Use this link to complete our RSVP online: https://forms.gle/SsLFt1wFuW38UgPk8
2. Visit our page to download the forms: www.rotary6900.org/page/656
3. Email us at RYLA6900@gmail.com for information and answers to your questions ?

If your club is already signed up, Student Registration Payments are Due NOW. Please mail your check to:

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

c/o Susan Ruckman

P.O. Box 1547

Americus, GA  31709

For Online Payments: Send your name, email address, club name, and amount to be paid (# of students + # of bus rides if any) to us at RYLA6900@gmail.com and we will send you an invoice through Square.

If you have already selected your students, please complete and return the Student Application Brochure (available on our district website page www.rotary6900.org/page/656 ) at your earliest convenience.

As always, if you have any questions at all please reach out to Susan Ruckman or Jaclyn Donovan and they will help you out. We can't wait to see your students at RYLA!!

Posted by Jaclyn Donovan
February 20, 2026

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Fellowship Opportunity

## Rotary Means Business

Rotary Means Business (RMB) is a global fellowship that encourages Rotarians to support one another's professional success through business referrals and mentoring. Watch the newsletter for upcoming events. If you want to get involved, please contact Carter Stout at 770.349.8201 or cstout@stoutkaiser.com

Posted by Carter Stout

February 25, 2026

Club News

# Alpharetta Polar Plunge Raises $220,000

The **Alpharetta Rotary Plunge**, held on February 7, raised $220,000 for 235 causes.  The temperature was only in the mid 40's when scores of fundraisers, many in costumes, braved the cold by jumping into the Wills Park Pool. Organizations that benefited that day included the Lionheart Life Center, Meals by Grace, Jafuta Foundation, Champions Community Foundation and many more.  The costumes included superhero outfits, penguins, and a Bavarian theme.  More than 1,635 donors contributed that day.

**PHOTOS:**

Posted by Gail LaFleche
February 25, 2026

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Club News

# Brookhaven Accepting Grant Applications

The **Brookhaven Rotary Club** is excited to announce a new program designed to provide grants, through the Brookhaven Rotary Foundation, to local organizations that support the city of Brookhaven community. Club President Jennifer Yanulavich adds, "If you know of a Brookhaven non-profit organization that may have a need for financial support, you can be their Rotarian champion! Even if you're a Rotarian outside of Brookhaven."

Applicant organizations need not be physically located in the city of Brookhaven but must show a direct link to service to citizens who reside in Brookhaven, Georgia. For its inaugural year, the club expects to select six organizations from among those that apply, to receive one of the following grant awards:

• One organization to receive a $5,000 grant

• Five organizations to receive a $1,000 grant

**Supporting Our Community**

The Brookhaven Rotary Club is very pleased to be able to support our community in the service of our members, but also with significant donations of funds raised through our members and supporters. Requests are received and evaluated by a Charity Committee that makes recommendations to the Board of Directors on awards and amounts to fund, from the requests the Club receives in the application period of February 18 to March 18, 2026.

**Giving Through Grants**

This committee is open to receive applications from any charitable entity for needs that support the club's service priorities, can demonstrate responsible fiscal management and provide a significant impact on our Brookhaven community and our service environment.

For more details on the ***Brookhaven Rotary Club Charity Grant Program*** and to complete an application, please click **here**.  All applications must be received by March 18, 2026. Further inquiries may be sent to rotarybrookhaven@gmail.com .

Posted by Linda Hatten
February 20, 2026

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Club News

# Rotary Club of Columbus Completes Meaningful Done-In-A-Meeting Project

The **Rotary Club of Columbus** recently transformed its regular gathering into a hands-on act of service, demonstrating what it truly means to live out Rotary's motto, Service Above Self. During a recent Done-In-A-Meeting project, Rotarians paused their usual agenda to work side-by-side filling hygiene bags for neighbors in need. The completed bags will benefit three local organizations making a direct impact in the community: Valley Rescue Mission, Stewart Community Home, and Home for Good.

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The project served as a reminder that meaningful service does not always require a large event — sometimes it simply takes people willing to show up, work together, and care intentionally for others. Members were encouraged to participate in assembling the bags, turning an ordinary meeting into an opportunity to make a tangible difference.

"Rotary is at its best when service moves from conversation to action," said Alan Harkness, Club

President. “When we come together with purpose, even a simple project like this becomes something powerful for our community. These hygiene bags represent dignity, compassion, and hope for those who receive them.”

The meeting concluded with the recitation of The Four-Way Test, reinforcing Rotary’s shared commitment to ethical leadership, integrity, and service that puts others first.

Through projects like this, the Rotary Club of Columbus continues to demonstrate how local professionals can unite to create lasting impact — one act of service at a time.

**PHOTOS:**

Posted by LeighAnn DiCesaris
February 20, 2026

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Club News

# Atlanta West End Strengthens Youth Through School Snack Initiative

The **Rotary Club of Atlanta West End (AWER)** has launched and delivered multiple rounds of food support to students at Booker T. Washington High School, ensuring that students have access to nourishment during school breaks when resources might be stretched thin at home. This initiative puts Rotary's Youth Service Avenue into action in a very tangible way. Through the Booker T. Washington Snack Initiative, AWER members have already completed two major deliveries of food and gift cards this Rotary year, with a third delivery scheduled for Spring Break in April 2026 and another planned for the last day of school in May.

Working directly with the school's counseling and social work departments, AWER member Bridgette Long identified a pressing concern: many students rely on school-based food access during the academic week, and extended breaks can create gaps in support.

In response, Rotarians and community partners collected shelf-stable snacks and foodstuffs such as macaroni cups and noodles, applesauce and fruit cups, granola bars, and gallon-sized bags for packing weekend food kits. Items were collected at our weekly Friday lunchtime meetings at the GA Tech Hotel & Conference Center and also purchased through an Amazon wishlist to simplify participation and broaden community involvement.

During the February winter break delivery, AWER members ensured the school pantry remained stocked, helping prevent depletion of essential supplies. The school counselor, Ms. Robinson, expressed deep gratitude, noting how meaningful this partnership is for students and families.

In the leadup to Thanksgiving, the project expanded even further when AWER member Carolina Ramos rallied friends and family to donate Kroger gift cards, ensuring households could purchase fresh food items to complement pantry staples. These additional resources extended the club's impact beyond

students to entire families.

Here in the Atlanta West End Club, we believe that service and fellowship go hand in hand. Projects like this remind us why we joined in the first place, and they tend to bring new members in too. They embody AWER's mission to build fellowship while creating sustainable community impact.

What makes this initiative especially powerful is its continuity. Rather than limiting support to a single holiday drive, AWER committed to ongoing deliveries throughout the school year:

- Thanksgiving Break 2025
- Winter Break 2026
- Spring Break 2026 (Upcoming)
- End of School Year 2026 (Planned)

By structuring the initiative around school breaks, the club created a predictable rhythm of support, strengthening trust and partnership with school leadership. District 6900 clubs looking for replicable, relationship-driven youth initiatives may find inspiration in this model.

Special shoutout to AWER member Bridgette Long for leading our club in this initiative, and to Carolina Ramos for going above and beyond to extend our reach into the community. Both embody the spirit of Rotary and Service Above Self.

Posted by Jared Evans
February 25, 2026

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Club News

## Buckhead Pairs School Kids and Shelter Dog Projects

The **Buckhead Rotary Club** brought two of its signature projects together in a Valentine's Day effort to benefit shelter dogs and children who have experienced homelessness themselves.

Buckhead Rotary members visited The Boyce L. Ansley School to make dog and cat toys with the students, grades K – 6 and write Valentine's Day messages for the animals at LifeLine Animal Project. The club also purchased more than 20 crates for the animals in the shelter, and the children wrote messages to adorn the crates saying things like "I hope you get adopted soon," and "I love you." A foster dog was brought in to participate in the event, giving the children a hands-on lesson in how to pet a dog safely, while enjoying a few treats from the kids as well.

The project was made possible in part by a grant from The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International to support education, one of the organization's seven areas of focus. The grant funded the purchase of the crates, the art supplies and Valentine's Day cookies for the children.

The Boyce Ansley School and LifeLine Animal project are two of the club's signature community service projects, meaning they each receive donations ever year, over three years. The signature projects provide focus for the club, and allow it, through funding and by providing volunteers over the three years, to make a more significant impact on key charities in the community.

The Boyce L. Ansley School is a tuition-free, private school for children who have or are currently experiencing homelessness. LifeLine Animal Project is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and the largest animal welfare

organization in Georgia. LifeLine manages DeKalb and Fulton County Animal Services, the only open-intake shelters in Atlanta.

Posted by Shelley Hammell
February 25, 2026

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Club News

## Atlanta Southern Crescent Delivers Valentines

The **Rotary Club of Atlanta Southern Crescent** delivered 50 Valentines for the residents and staff of the Jonesboro Senior Assisted Living. President Mahli Lowder and Rotarian Dawn Hartman enjoyed delivering the valentines and loved seeing the joy they brought.

Posted by Claudia Mertl
February 17, 2026