

ENGLISH (EN)

# Engaging Young Leaders

Carrying out sustainable projects is key to bringing positive, lasting change to communities locally and globally. To increase sustainable service, a goal of our [strategic plan](https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/learning-reference/about-rotary/strategic-plan), Rotary concentrates on programs and activities that engage young leaders and empower youth, and on our six areas of focus.

our young leaders

**Rotaractors** (ages 18-30)**:** 219,029\* (estimated); 89,872 (reported)

**Rotaract clubs:** 9,523

**Interactors** (ages 12-18)**:** 468,372 (estimated)

**Interact clubs:** 20,364

**Rotary Youth Exchange** (for ages 15-19)**:** More than 8,700 students from 80 countries on long-term and short-term exchanges

**Rotary Youth Leadership Awards:** Thousands of secondary school students, university students, and young professionals participate in local leadership development programs each year

\*As of 1 July 2016

What we can do

* Engage young professionals through [Rotaract](https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/learning-reference/learn-topic/rotaract) and connect through mentoring. Promote community-based Rotaract clubs as Rotary club partners to expand and diversify service in communities.
* Build effective ongoing relationships with young professionals and with the family of Rotary, including Rotaractors, grant recipients, and other program alumni by working on service projects together.
* Develop leaders in your community and club, and build goodwill, international understanding, and life-long friendships by getting them involved in [Interact](https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/learning-reference/learn-topic/interact), [RYLA](https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/take-action/empower-leaders/organize-ryla-event), or other Rotary programs and activities.
* Promote peace by supporting [Rotary Youth Exchange](https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/take-action/empower-leaders/start-exchange).
* Encourage community involvement by sponsoring a [Rotary Community Corps](https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/take-action/empower-leaders/organize-rotary-community-corps).
* Share your expertise in a [Rotarian Action Group](https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/take-action/empower-leaders/join-rotarian-action-group).
* Celebrate Rotary’s impact by adding completed club and district service projects to [Rotary Showcase](https://map.rotary.org/en/project/pages/project_showcase.aspx/).

Doing more good through our areas of focus

We transform lives and communities by carrying out sustainable projects in our [areas of focus](https://www.rotary.org/en/learning-reference/about-rotary/areas-focus). Here are a few examples.

[Fighting disease](https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/learning-reference/about-rotary/disease-prevention-and-treatment)

Through Family Health Days, Rotary members have provided free health care services to hundreds of thousands of people in Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, and Uganda since 2011. The program is led by Rotary and sponsored by the South Africa Department of Health, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Agency for International Development, and others. Also, our investments in the polio eradication infrastructure in Nigeria helped the government stop the Ebola outbreak in 2014.

[Providing clean water, sanitation, and hygiene](https://www.rotary.org/en/learning-reference/about-rotary/water-and-sanitation)

Rotary has developed lasting relationships with the U.S. Agency for International Development, local government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector to provide access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene services to schools, clinics, and communities across Ghana.

[Saving mothers and children](https://www.rotary.org/en/learning-reference/about-rotary/maternal-and-child-health)

Rotarians in Germany, aided by a Rotary grant and the Helmut Kohl Foundation jointly funded a maternity hospital in Sri Lanka. Since the hospital opened in 2012, more than 140,000 babies and 2 million mothers have benefited from medical equipment provided by Rotarians in the two countries.

[Supporting education](https://www.rotary.org/en/learning-reference/about-rotary/basic-education-and-literacy)

The Guatemala Literacy Project, a partnership between Rotary clubs and the Cooperative for Education, serves more than 170 of Guatemala’s lowest-performing middle and secondary schools. It provides teacher training, a textbook rental program, literacy materials, and computer labs to children in low-income communities. The textbook program has decreased the student dropout rate by 46 percent. More than 80 percent of graduates use their computer skills to further their education or get higher-paying jobs.

[Growing local economies](https://www.rotary.org/en/learning-reference/about-rotary/economic-and-community-development)

In Peru, the Rotary Club of Inka Cusco and the local municipality are combating poverty and environmental degradation by teaching families in rural areas about farming, reforestation, and good health habits. More than 40,000 people have benefitted from better nutrition, visits to local health services, and increased incomes from raising livestock and fish. Plus, more than 1 million trees have been planted.

[Promoting peace](https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/get-involved/exchange-ideas/peace-fellowships)

More than 900 Rotary Peace Fellows have graduated since the Rotary Peace Centers program began in 2001. University of Bradford fellow Maria Saiffudin Effendi co-founded the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies at the National Defense University in Islamabad, Pakistan. Robert Opira and Godfrey Mukalazi, former peace fellows at the University of Queensland, founded the Great Lakes Center for Conflict Resolution in Uganda.

Find out more

Learn more about how we [empower leaders](https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/take-action/empower-leaders).

[Identify a community need](https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/take-action/develop-projects/lifecycle-project#implement) and work with your club to design and carry out a hands-on project that addresses it.

Check out tips for success and ways to take action in the [Areas of Focus guide](https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/document/rotarys-areas-focus).

Apply for a [Rotary grant](https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/take-action/apply-grants) to support a project.

The Secretariat’s key experts on increasing sustainable service are:

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