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Rotary
Club of San Antonio
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UNITE
FOR
GOOD

Rotary

January 27, 2026

Salsalito Cantina Mexican Restaurant
14535 Nacogdoches Road, San Antonio, TX 78247
Social at 5:30 p.m. - Meeting from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Salsalito
CANTINA
MEXICAN RESTAURANT

Rotary's Four Way Test of the things we think, say or do:

1.) Is it the TRUTH? 2.) Is it FAIR to all concerned? 3.) Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS? 4.) Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

Our speaker this evening is Cameron Weber. Cameron is a junior at Keystone School with a passion for 3d printing, designing, and flying autonomous drones. His passion started with a love for model planes, and his enthusiasm for innovative and efficient technologies. He has been working in this field for 3 years, and plans to go into aerospace engineering. When he's not making history with drones, he loves fishing, hiking, and violin.



Cameron is the son of San Antonio North Central Rotarian Craig Weber. Many thanks to Craig for arranging for Cameron to be our speaker this evening.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

February 3rd Dr. Francisco Solis,
President of San Antonio College
February 10th Kathy Benitez,
Alaska Sea Glass Art

We are always looking for potential guest speakers for our meetings. As a club member, if you have an idea for a potential speaker, please forward the speaker's information to club secretary Dan Clark.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Belated birthday wishes to LaVonna Stewart who celebrated her birthday on January 25th.



At the start of tonight our Happy Bucks pot is up to \$50. That means if your ticket is drawn tonight and you pull the Joker out of the deck, you will leave with at least \$25.

Each year, Rotary International dedicates the month of January to celebrate the importance of vocational service—a core tenet of Rotary's mission. Vocational Month is a time for Rotarians to reflect on the role of their professions in shaping communities and to recommit to using their skills, knowledge, and ethical practices to make a positive difference in the world.



ROTARIAN CODE OF CONDUCT

As a Rotarian, I will:

1. Act with integrity and high ethical standards in my personal and professional life
2. Deal fairly with others and treat them and their occupations with respect
3. Use my professional skills through Rotary to mentor young people, help those with special needs, and improve people's quality of life in my community and in the world
4. Avoid behavior that reflects adversely on Rotary or other Rotarians
5. Help maintain a harassment-free environment in Rotary meetings, events, and activities; report any suspected harassment; and help ensure non-retaliation to those individuals that report harassment

Indian developer donates US\$50 million to The Rotary Foundation

by Etelka Lehoczky

Declaring that "giving is a duty," longtime Rotary member Ravishankar Dakoju pledged that he and his wife and fellow club member, Paola Dakoju, would donate approximately US\$50 million (4.5 billion Indian rupees) to The Rotary Foundation. Dakoju announced the gift at Rotary's International Assembly in Orlando, Florida, January 13, 2026.

"Years ago, Paola and I shared a dream: that one day, when we had enough to live with dignity, we would return 85% of our wealth back to society," said Dakoju, a member of the Rotary Club of Bangalore, Karnataka, India. "My friends, that day has arrived."



Ravishankar and Paola Dakoju stand onstage at Rotary's 2026 International Assembly in Orlando, Florida, on January 13, 2026. Ravishankar announced he and Paola would donate approximately US\$50 million (4.5 billion Indian rupees) to The Rotary Foundation.

Photo by Monika Lozinska. Credit/Copyright: Rotary International.

"What we keep may serve only our family, nothing beyond that. What we give The Rotary Foundation will serve humanity," he said. Dakoju told assembly attendees how his life experiences led him to commit to philanthropy. He described how his father, who had donated all of the family's land to poor farmers, died suddenly when Dakoju was age 10. Dakoju recalled how he, his mother, and his six siblings were left with less than US\$2 in the bank. He said he failed in school and misbehaved, even leading a street gang, before he earned a college degree and eventually co-founded Hara Housing & Land Development Ltd. Now it's one of the leading land developers in Bangalore.

Dakoju also found Rotary. He was impressed by Rotary's values of fellowship and service, and as his business grew, they supported The Rotary Foundation. In 2018, they committed to donating approximately US\$14.7 million (1.3 billion Indian rupees) to the Foundation. It was one of the largest contributions in the Foundation's history.

"Whatever I have achieved so far came from the kindness of people, the grace of life, and the opportunities Rotary brought into my world," Dakoju said at the assembly.

Dakoju has funded global grants and other programs in his district and worked on numerous service projects. In August, he pledged to match donations of up to US\$50,000 (4,500,000 Indian rupees) for each district in India that created pooled endowed funds to support environmental and education-oriented initiatives. He also participated in a five-year project to plant 10 million saplings in Karnataka state.

At the assembly, Dakoju emphasized the connection between his commitment to Rotary and his philosophy of giving.

"Rotary gave me new life, new purpose, new friendship, new meaning, and a global family," he said. "And life has taught me this beautiful truth: When you give more than you think you can, life returns to you more than you can ever imagine."

January being Vocational Service Month, club member Kelly Carreon gave a very interesting presentation to those in attendance at our meeting last week. Thank you, Kelly.



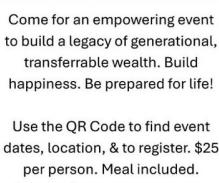
JANUARY IS VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH



Thanks go out to club members Trina Forcey and Becky Goering, along with Madison Interact Club Sponsor Janeen Downen and all the Interactors that volunteered at Sleep In Heavenly Peace on Saturday, January 17, 2026.

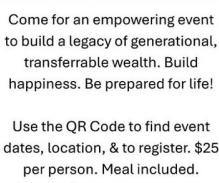


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- Learn how to become financially solvent.
- Challenge Your Self-Limiting Beliefs.
- Learn how to take control of your time and money to plan for the future and our children's future generations wealth.
- Be financially prepared for the unexpected.
- 40-50% of 1st marriages end in divorce and 60-60% of 2nd marriages end in divorce.
- 50-70% of premature deaths (leaving a spouse before future is secured) cause financial instability as a trigger, leaving many spouses financially depleted.
- You may think it won't happen to you. That's what they thought too!

Rotary exhibit highlights fight against polio

by Desiree Shannon
Evanston Now
January 12, 2026

Dioramas and three dimensional miniatures are often overlooked art forms, but they sometimes can convey a story in a compact and eye-catching manner.

One example is the exhibit currently on display in the lobby of One Rotary Center at 1560 Sherman Ave., which features Rotary International's decades-long efforts to eradicate polio worldwide. The exhibit runs through the end of April.

Stephanie Giordano, a Rotary archivist who manages the organization's exhibits, said "the goal of having this exhibited here was so we could get people to come in and learn about our work in polio."

Polio is a contagious viral disease that invades the nervous system, causing paralysis and, sometimes in extreme cases, death. The disease terrified people before vaccines became available in the 1950s. Those vaccines led to the near eradication of the disease in the United States.

Teddy Bear, Big Cause: Rotary's teddy bear mascot sits atop the tip of a pencil in one of the original works currently on display at Rotary International's world headquarters. The bear was sculptured from the tip of the pencil and then painted. This work was completed by artist Salavat Fidai. Credit: Rotary International (see right).



This piece, "Delivering Hope" by Derrick Lin, depicts a vaccine delivery to a very remote part of the world. Notice the tip of a life-sized pencil on the far left, used as part of the miniaturized terrain.



The journey of vaccination by Raphael Truffi Bortholuzzi depicts a rural vaccination site set up by Brazilian health workers and Rotary members.

Credit: Rotary International.

Giordano said that Rotary International's involvement with polio eradication began in 1979 with a project in the Philippines.

On the heels of that program's success, Rotary forged partnerships with other organizations promoting health initiatives, such as the Centers for Disease Control, the World Health Organization and UNICEF. Ultimately, those organizations combined forces to form the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

GPEI continues to spearhead efforts to wipe polio off the face of the earth, a task that it sees as possible, given that polio only appears in human populations. If it is eradicated in humans, the spread of the disease will cease, as was the case with smallpox. Much of the organization's current efforts are concentrated in a few polio hotspots found in countries such as Afghanistan.

Rotary International's team based in Evanston sought international artists for the exhibit, many of whom were found through personal online social channels and outreach. "Our reach was very broad and in terms of miniature artists on Instagram or social channels, we wanted to engage people that had a following as well as people that represented different countries and perspectives," said Kate Benzschawel, a Rotary art director.

The miniature works themselves represent what anti-polio efforts look like in the artists' countries. For instance, a miniature by Brazilian artist Raphael Truffi Bortholuzzi called "The journey of vaccination" depicts a pop-up vaccination clinic complete with tiny replicas of vaccine cooling containers and visitors' shoes. The portable blue coolers which are used to transport and store polio vaccine are ubiquitous among the chosen pieces presented at the exhibit.

Participating artists gave follow-up interviews to the Rotary team after submitting their work. "It was a transforming experience for all of them...they were not aware for the most part (about) polio and they were very moved," said Benzschawel. She said the experience made the artists into advocates for polio eradication efforts.



This untitled work by Rosa de Jong may look like a bowl of earth, but a closer look reveals a tiny replica of a mobile vaccine clinic. Mobile clinics held in shipping containers are usually placed in central locations, making access easier for surrounding populations.

Credit: Desiree Shannon.