



San Antonio Northeast Rotary Club
Chartered May 19, 1987 - District 5840 - Club #24625
www.sanortheastrotary.com



the Nor'easter



Rotary
Club of San Antonio
Northeast



April 29, 2025

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.



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 Bennie Price, CEO and Founder of the 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, Big Mama's Safe House. The mission of Big Mama's Safe House is to combat gun violence by providing safe, supportive housing for survivors, fostering healing and stability, advocating for preventive measures, and empowering individuals and communities to rebuild their lives free from fear, ensuring safety, dignity, and hope for a brighter, violence-free future.



Mr. Price will give us an update on the events that Big Mama's Safe House will be involved with in the near future. Thanks to Trina Forcey for arranging for Mr. Price to come out and visit us this evening.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Bob and Celeste Baron will be celebrating their 60th Wedding Anniversary on May 1st.

Happy Diamond Anniversary, Bob and Celeste.



Trina and Tye Forcey will be celebrating their Wedding Anniversary on May 5th. Happy Anniversary, Trina and Tye.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- May 6th Traci Brodbeck, Yellow Roses
- May 13th Mitch Andry, Cool Crest Miniature Golf Course
- May 20th Colleen Swain, San Antonio World Heritage Office
- May 27th Justin Moore, Airborne Aerial Photography
- June 3rd William Philips, Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer University Health



At the start of tonight our Happy Bucks pot is up to \$140. That means if your ticket is drawn tonight and you pull the Joker out of the deck, you will leave with at least \$70.

Rotary Night at Missions aka Flying Chanclas Baseball

Join the Rotary Club of San Antonio for a great night at the ballpark on Thursday, May 22nd. Ticket price of \$35 includes food, beer and soft drinks. Rotary will have the private Fiesta Deck. Tickets are limited so sign up today. The San Antonio Missions Fiesta Deck is an all-inclusive, private, multi-level deck. It includes an ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT meal that includes hamburgers, hot dogs, beef and chicken fajitas, and nacho bar. Plus, snack on popcorn, cookies, and chips and salsa throughout the game while washing it down with refreshing Coca-Cola products or ICE COLD BEER!! (Food is available from 6-9 or until the 7th inning, whichever comes first.)

In case you were wondering, the name "Flying Chanclas" honors the matriarch of the Latino family, the abuelita (grandmother), and her symbol of strength, discipline and love with its on-field persona for this special series of events. The chancla has long been symbolic of the abuelita as she maintains the structure and order of the family.

Click the following link to purchase tickets:

<https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/3FXRB75T3KV5A>



The
Rotary
Foundation



**END
POLIO
NOW**

GRANTS MANAGEMENT TRAINING

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: RY25-26 Club President, Club Foundation Chair, D5840 Assistant Governors, and anyone responsible for completing RY24-25 District Grants

AGENDA:

- How to complete your RY24-25 District Grants
- How to get club qualified for RY25-26 District Grants
- Who from each club should take Learning Center courses and sign MOU
- How to find Learning Center courses in myRotary
- Where to find MOU required for club to be qualified
- How to submit District Grant application
- What is the deadline to submit District Grant applications

May 15, 2025 6:00PM - 7:00PM
Zoom link will be provided

REGISTER NOW



Rotary
District 5840



A District Grants Management Training will be held over Zoom on Thursday, May 15th from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. to help clubs close out District Grants for RY24-25 and to prepare to apply for District Grants RY25-26.

Our Foundation dollars that come back to D5840 give our clubs the opportunity to make a difference in our communities and in the world. Good stewardship of these funds is critical in the continuous confidence from our Rotary Foundation Trustees. Please make every effort to attend and understand our District Grant qualification and stewardship process. Click the following link to register:

<https://www.crsadmin.com/eventportal/registrations/publicfill/eventpublicfill.aspx?evtid=0e89ebb0-aa76-4dd3-8fef-518c9143fb29>

Maddie attends the Rotary Club Madrid Serrano meeting

Madeline "Maddie" Aguilar, the Global Grant Scholar that the San Antonio Northeast Rotary Club is sponsoring, recently sent us some photos of the meeting she attended with the Rotary Club Madrid Serrano, her sponsoring Rotary club in Spain. As you can see, Maddie exchanged Rotary club banners with the Rotary Club Madrid Serrano and will be presenting the Madrid club's banner to us when she is back in the United States. Maddie is attending the Instituto de Empresa in Madrid and will be graduating in July.



Our progress in the fight against polio shows why vaccination is important

Increasing awareness about the power of vaccines and closing immunization gaps could protect millions of people worldwide from vaccine-preventable diseases, including polio, according to the World Health Organization. World Immunization Week, April 24-30, is an opportunity to focus on that work, and the robust polio eradication infrastructure built by Rotary and our partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) provides a model for it.



The GPEI estimates that polio vaccines have saved an estimated 20 million children around the world from paralysis. When Rotary helped launch the GPEI in 1988, the disease paralyzed more than 1,000 people worldwide every day, most of them young children. Since then, Rotary and its partners have reduced the number of polio cases by 99%, and so far in 2025, there are just eight cases of polio caused by the wild poliovirus. Afghanistan and Pakistan are the only two countries where the wild poliovirus remains endemic.

The progress against polio is the result of the efforts of countless volunteers and health workers who immunize children in hard-to-reach communities and establish real-time global surveillance and outbreak response mechanisms. The polio eradication infrastructure has been used to fight other infectious diseases and undertake crucial health interventions, including supporting COVID-19 prevention and vaccination efforts.

With our decades of experience in bringing polio to the brink of eradication, Rotary has been able to highlight the power and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines. Since the pandemic began in 2020, Rotary members have helped health authorities communicate lifesaving information about COVID-19, dispel misinformation, and support fair and equal access to vaccines.

What it takes to manage 400,000-plus polio eradication workers

by Etelka Lehoczky

You may never have seen a community health worker. You may not even have heard the term before. But these individuals, many of them volunteers, play increasingly important roles in health care systems around the globe. And they're essential to Rotary's health initiatives — especially the fight against polio and other diseases.



A hidden 'army' is on the frontlines of immunization in Pakistan

Community health workers are usually women. They have expansive personal networks that enable them to identify and connect with underserved people living around them. They often go from house to house, providing basic medical interventions and advice. In many countries, they're the main workforce administering polio vaccinations.

Another common focus of their work is maternal and child health, but even that can involve immunization support, says Svea Closser, a medical anthropologist and a professor at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, USA. "They will do some basic checks, prenatally, and often accompany women to the hospital when it's time to give birth. Then they'll follow up after the baby is born to encourage the mother to get the baby vaccinated," says Closser, who has studied community health workers in Ethiopia, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and other countries. "And besides working with the polio campaigns in almost every country, they will also provide additional support for other vaccines: getting people to the places where the vaccines are being given, allaying parents' fears about vaccines, things like that."

Administering vaccines and educating people about the need for them are among the most important parts of a community health worker's job. That's particularly true in Pakistan, one of only two countries where the wild poliovirus still circulates. (The other is Afghanistan.)

More than 400,000 community health workers are deployed across Pakistan, including in the most remote regions. It's a squad that's second in size only to Pakistan's real army, says Israr UI Haq, who has a key role in overseeing the vast group. He's a social and behavioral change specialist for UNICEF, one of Rotary's core partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.



Israr UI Haq,
Social and Behavioral
Change Specialist, UNICEF
Islamabad, Pakistan

UI Haq recently talked about the demands of finding, training, and managing nearly half a million community health workers. In Pakistan, they're divided into frontline workers and social mobilizers.

Q: What do frontline workers and social mobilizers do?

A: Frontline workers go from house to house to vaccinate. Social mobilizers take the message of the importance of polio vaccination — and not just polio vaccination, but also the health and well-being of children and mothers — to the community.

Q: Do you need to find workers who live in every community, all over Pakistan?

A: Yes. It is very important for people to have social and emotional attachments to the workers who end up at their doorsteps. Social mobilizers should be well known in the community, so we have to pick from the community. It's not like we can bring in somebody from outside.

Q: Why not?

A: It's like, "The people from within us would never harm us." We need to win people's trust. We need for people to understand why we stress the importance of polio vaccination more than anything else. That social buy-in is very important. After 28 years of this program, more than 95% of people open their doors to get their children vaccinated.

Q: What qualifications do you look for when recruiting health workers?

A: We predominantly work with females. We have a conservative society where men from other families are not allowed to go inside people's houses. Access to mothers is very important, and it's next to impossible in some areas for men to talk to the mothers. But in far-flung areas where it is very difficult for females to travel, it's very difficult to get females to do this work. And then we end up getting males from within those societies.

Q: Are there other challenges in recruiting workers in remote areas?

A: The workers should be educated enough to read and write, but it depends on the literacy rate in the area. In areas where we have low literacy rates, we have taken on older females who could not read and write but were known in their communities.

Q: What skills and information do the workers learn?

A: We do an orientation on polio, polio vaccination, and routine immunization. Then they are trained in the basics of human dialogue and community listening. We spend a lot of time training people in how to listen. We are also training them in a package of key family health care practices.

We've recently started a training approach we call the "golden triad," which is between the person in charge of an area, the frontline worker, and the social mobilizer. They'll do some exercises, they'll build trust, and they'll ensure that they actually help each other achieve their jobs. This training is now going to be every six weeks, so practically all our social mobilizers will be retrained and refreshed regularly.

Q: Are the workers paid? If so, what do they earn?

A: They are paid around US\$150 per month.

Q: How many vaccination campaigns do the frontline workers implement each year?

A: On average, six to eight campaigns will be conducted per year, but not all are conducted across the whole country. The number across the whole country may vary between three to four per year, whereas the remaining are smaller campaigns or outbreak responses in limited geographies. [About] 45.2 million children were vaccinated in the last major campaign.