

ZIMBABWE • ZAMBIA • MALAWI • NORTHERN MOZAMBIQUE

OCTOBER 2026 EDITION

THE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Creating Lasting Impact

Rotary International Theme, 2026–2027



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TWO DATES TO MARK

October is Community Economic Development Month.

24 October is World Polio Day.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Turning the Page, Opening the Tap

FARAI GWAZE, DISTRICT 9210 NEWSLETTER EDITOR



Welcome to the October edition of the Rotary District 9210 newsletter, bringing together the work of our clubs across Malawi, Northern Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe. If September belonged to Basic Education and Literacy, our clubs made sure the month did not pass quietly. This issue is, in many ways, a report card on what happens when a district decides that every child deserves a book in their hands.

In Zambia's North-Western Province, the Rotary Club of Solwezi put books in Lunda, Kaonde and Luvale into young readers' hands, while in Lusaka Province the Rotary Club of Maluba restocked the library at Chikumbuso Community School in Ng'ombe Compound. On the Copperbelt, the Rotary Club of Ndola stood with learners at Ndola Day Care Special School. In Zimbabwe, the Rotary Club of Harare Central set out to reach more than 100 primary schools in a single year: eight schools in Wedza, Mashonaland East, received US\$40,000 worth of leisure books; learners in Chivi in Masvingo Province, Gweru in the Midlands and Zvimba in Mashonaland West welcomed Rotarians with plays, poetry and traditional dance; and one Past President clocked 2,760 km delivering books to rural schools across Mashonaland East and Masvingo.

But this edition is about more than books. On Zambia's Copperbelt, the Rotary Club of Chingola Metro watched as the first water rushed from a new borehole at Ndungu Primary School in Chingola, and the Rotary Club of Ndola Central trained 30 young Peer Educators to lead the fight against malaria in their schools and homes. In Lusaka, the Rotary Club of Maluba brought dignity and comfort to women at Lusaka Central Female Correctional Facility, and in Solwezi, wheelchairs and walkers gave community

members new independence. In Zimbabwe, the Rotary Club of Msasa and BMW Bikers for Charity took to the road to raise US\$5,000 for a new borehole at Manyosha Primary School in Seke District, Mashonaland East, the five Rotary Clubs of Bulawayo came together at White City Stadium to restore sight under District Governor Sam's "Together We Give" programme, and in Harare, the Rotary Club of Borrowdale Brooke opened its cupboards, and its heart, to the L'Arche family.

October brings two more calls to action. It is Community Economic Development Month, a reminder that the most lasting service often looks like a job created, a skill learnt or a small business given room to grow, or, as at Manyosha Primary School, a school garden that could help parents pay fees. District Governor Sam opens this edition with a challenge for every club to test its service against three questions: will it empower, will it endure, will it create lasting impact? And on 24 October, the Rotary world marks World Polio Day, which gives RI President Yinka Babalola's message in this issue its urgency: 99.9 percent is not 100 percent. In this month's PI Lens, our District Public Image Chair asks a simple question with big implications for both: would your photographs make anyone stop scrolling?

Thank you to every club correspondent who sent us a story this month. This newsletter belongs to all four of our countries, and we would especially love to hear from our clubs in Malawi and Northern Mozambique for the November edition. Keep the stories coming, and please send your best photographs with them, especially the unposed ones. This newsletter is only as rich as what you share with it.

Yours in Rotary Service,
The District 9210 Newsletter Team

ROTARY AFRICA | SOUTH · RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

99.9% Is Not 100%

YINKA BABALOLA, PRESIDENT, ROTARY INTERNATIONAL



Aminu Ahmed Tudun-Wada knows what polio takes from a child. He contracted the disease as a young boy in Kano, Nigeria, and was left paralysed.

Decades later, when Nigeria was struggling to eradicate polio, Aminu decided that he would use his experience to help protect other children.

He brought together polio survivors and began going door to door, talking with parents about vaccination. The survivors told their stories. They showed families the effects of polio. And they urged parents to make sure their children never had to experience what they had to go through.

By 2021, the Polio Survivors Group that Aminu founded had grown to more than 400 members. Their work helped Nigeria reach a milestone that once seemed impossible: in 2020, the World Health Organisation certified Nigeria, and the entire African region, free of wild poliovirus.

I think about people like Aminu whenever we talk about ending polio. Eradication is about children who will never know what it means to lose the ability to walk. It is about parents who will never have to watch a healthy child become paralysed by a disease that vaccines can prevent.

It is about making sure the people who remember polio become the last

generation that does. Rotary has been part of this fight for more than four decades. Together with our partners, we have helped vaccinate more than 3 billion children, contributed more than \$3 billion to the global effort and reduced cases of wild poliovirus by 99.9 percent.

But 99.9 percent is not 100 percent.

Wild poliovirus remains endemic in Afghanistan and Pakistan. As long as it circulates anywhere, children everywhere remain at risk. And even after wild poliovirus disappears from a country, we must maintain strong immunisation and surveillance systems so the virus cannot find a way back.

Aminu could have looked at his own experience and asked, "Why me?" Instead, he asked a different question: "How can I make sure this does not happen to another child?" That is the spirit we need now.

The final mile of any journey can be the hardest. But we have walked too far, worked too hard and protected too many children to stop here.

Let us remember why we began. Let us listen to those who have experienced polio. Let us be the generation that creates lasting impact and ensure no one ever experiences polio again.

Yinka
President, Rotary International

WORLD POLIO DAY · 24 OCTOBER · END POLIO NOW

FROM THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR · COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MONTH

Will It Empower? Will It Endure?

SAMUEL TAURAYI CHIKOWORE, DISTRICT GOVERNOR 2026–2027, ROTARY DISTRICT 9210



“Our success is not measured simply by what we give, but by what remains long after we have served.”

As we mark Economic and Community Development Month, I encourage every Rotarian in District 9210 to reflect on the difference between helping for today and creating lasting impact for tomorrow.

As I continue my District Governor visits across our four countries, I am inspired by the work being done by our clubs. I am seeing Rotarians responding to real community needs, building partnerships and using their skills, networks and resources to transform lives.

But our challenge must always be to go further.

Creating Lasting Impact means designing projects that empower people rather than create dependency. It means helping communities develop the skills, opportunities and capacity to build better futures for themselves.

When we support entrepreneurship, strengthen livelihoods, equip young

people with skills, create employment opportunities and invest in sustainable community development, we do more than meet an immediate need, we create possibility.

This October, I challenge every club to ask three questions about its service:

- Will it empower?
- Will it endure?
- Will it create lasting impact?

Across Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique, let us continue building Rotary clubs that do not simply undertake projects, but become catalysts for sustainable transformation in the communities we serve.

Let our communities be stronger because Rotary was there. Let families discover new opportunities because Rotary cared. And let the impact of our service continue long after the project has ended.

Together, we Create Lasting Impact.

Samuel Taurayi Chikowore
District Governor 2026–2027,
Rotary District 9210

EMPOWER · ENDURE · CREATE LASTING IMPACT

PUBLIC IMAGE · DISTRICT 9210

The PI Lens

Seeing Rotary differently. Telling our story better.

WOULD YOU STOP SCROLLING?

In our world today, many of us experience information overload daily. We decide what deserves our attention in seconds.

Every day, every hour... Scroll. Scroll. Scroll.

Then suddenly, something makes us stop. A striking photograph. A face filled with emotion. An unexpected moment. An image that makes us curious enough to read the story behind it.

Therein lies the power of a good photograph, an essential facet of Public Image. As we continue our journey to become better storytellers, let us focus more this month on the photographs that accompany our stories.

What do our Rotary photographs say about us? What story are our photographs telling?

Rows of people standing shoulder-to-shoulder looking at the camera? Photographs of handovers? Large groups holding certificates? A table covered with donated items while Rotarians pose behind it? There is nothing inherently wrong with these photographs; they are sometimes needed, but they should not be the only images through which the public sees Rotary. If we want people to understand that Rotary is active, relevant and making a difference, our photographs should help them feel the action and the impact.

Capture the laughter, conversation and interaction between Rotarians and community members.

A photograph should not simply prove that Rotary was there. It should help people understand why Rotary was there.

TWO FACES OF ROTARY THIS OCTOBER

October gives us two very different faces of Rotary in the same month, and both are worth a hard look through the PI lens.

October is Community Economic Development Month, so look for images that show empowerment rather than simply handovers. Community Economic Development Month is about the quieter, sustainability-focused side of Rotary: microfinance, vocational training, job creation. This is work that is harder to photograph than a book drive, but arguably more transformative. Community economic development does not lend itself to a single dramatic photo, which is probably why it gets less airtime than it deserves. How do we close the gap?

Show the person, not the programme. "We funded a microfinance initiative" is a press release. "Tendai's tailoring stall opened last month, and she hired her first employee this week" is a story. Find the person on the other end of the funding and allow them to carry the post.

World Polio Day is on 24 October. Make it count! Think beyond simply posting a graphic saying End Polio Now. Instead, use photographs and content that help your community understand Rotary's extraordinary commitment to polio eradication, and why finishing the job still matters.

PUBLIC IMAGE · DISTRICT 9210

Five Simple Ways to Improve Your Rotary Photographs

- Get closer.
- Capture action.
- Look for emotion.
- Check the background for clutter, rubbish and distracting objects.
- Take several photographs, changing the angles, distance and positions.



THE PI TIP

Don't say "Everyone, look at the camera!" too quickly. Take your best photographs before people realise you are taking them. Photograph them while they are interacting, working, laughing and serving. You may be surprised to see that sometimes the photograph that wasn't posed is the one that tells the best Rotary story.

...and as you tell your Rotary story this October, remember to **#alwayschoosekindness**



MWAKA ZAMCHIYA

District Public Image Chair 2026–2027, Rotary District 9210

BASIC EDUCATION & LITERACY MONTH · LOOKING BACK

Basic Education and Literacy: A Bridge to Hope

As we swung into spring, September invited Rotarians to reflect on one of Rotary's seven areas of focus: Basic Education and Literacy. To keep our curiosity going, let us begin with the definitions.

Basic education and literacy refers to the foundational stage of learning that equips individuals with essential life skills, primarily reading, writing, oral expression and numeracy.

“Literacy is a bridge from misery to hope. It is a tool for daily life in modern society, a bulwark against poverty, an agent of family health and nutrition, the road to human progress and the means through which every man, woman and child can realize his or her full potential.”

KOFI ANNAN

As UNESCO notes, in today's connected world literacy is no longer limited to reading and writing on paper alone. It entails identifying, understanding, interpreting, evaluating, creating, verifying, communicating and computing.

The United Nations views basic education and literacy as fundamental elements of human rights and the primary engine for sustainable development, poverty reduction and gender equality. Indicators for basic education and literacy measure access, quality and learning outcomes within education systems using standardised global frameworks such as those in the UNESCO Digital Library and Sustainable Development Goal 4.

Through this area of focus, Rotary aims to address critical humanitarian needs and create lasting change worldwide by increasing adult literacy, improving the lives of children in early childhood development, primary and secondary schools, and ensuring that girls and women have equal access to learning opportunities. Globally, over 775 million adults, some 17 percent of the world's adult population, lack basic literacy skills.

In Zimbabwe, improving literacy rates among early grade learners has become a pressing concern for educators and policymakers alike. National assessment reports indicate that approximately 65 percent of Grade 2 learners do not meet minimum reading proficiency requirements (Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education, 2019).

That is why, throughout the month, Rotarians looked at how basic education and literacy can be improved in and around our communities: strengthening early childhood instruction, supporting teachers and engaging families, among other approaches. The month also took in International Literacy Day on 8 September, first declared more than 60 years ago, a reminder of the importance of literacy and a chance to reflect on how digitalisation, in a world where AI can read and write, is redefining what it means to be literate, and how literacy, teaching and learning programmes and policies are designed, managed and monitored.

Nelson Mandela said, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” As Rotarians, together we can make lives better through basic education and literacy. The stories that follow show our clubs doing exactly that.

BASIC EDUCATION & LITERACY · ACROSS ZIMBABWE

Harare Central's Literacy Drive Reaches Schools Across Zimbabwe

ROTARY CLUB OF HARARE CENTRAL

100+	PRIMARY SCHOOLS TARGETED IN 2026	60,000+	LEARNERS SET TO BENEFIT FROM THE BOOK DRIVE	2,760km	CLOCKED BY PP MARIAN MAZINGI DELIVERING BOOKS
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A RECORD AMBITION: 100 SCHOOLS IN ONE YEAR

Past President Tember Banda has long been a proud advocate of Basic Education and Literacy. “Between 2008 and 2022, I was Vice Chairperson of the Harare Distribution Committee, Book Aid International's distribution partner for the three Mashonaland Provinces, Manicaland and Masvingo Provinces. I have seen first-hand how our interventions of providing reading materials have transformed disadvantaged schools,” she said. “This year, as part of our service project, we aimed as Harare Central to set a record of over 100 primary schools receiving leisure reading books in 2026! This represents more than 60,000 learners who would be able to benefit from the book drive!”

Members fanned out across the country to make it happen. Rotarian Mary Makoni, who championed the book donation drive, chose Buhera District in Manicaland Province and donated to six rural primary schools. The local Member of Parliament was so moved by the donation of books and sporting equipment that he responded by donating 12,000 brand new Heritage-based syllabus textbooks to 23 primary schools in his constituency. “We commend gestures such as this, which will help the school children in the district,” she noted.

Rotarian Clarren Dzimwasha delivered books to several farm schools in Mazowe District, Mashonaland Central Province, where she has worked and seen the need first-hand. Past President Sevias Munjere

travelled 360 km from Harare to Zifunzi School in Masvingo Province, which was in dire need of leisure books to improve learner literacy. President Nominee Travor Wambe and Rotarian Lorraine handed over books to six schools in Zvimba Rural, Mashonaland West Province, at an event held at Chikaka Primary School, and to farm schools in the resettlement areas of Banket.

Past President Kudzai handed over books to several schools at Chengeta Primary School in Chegutu District, Mashonaland West Province. Past President Lorcadia Chakurira donated books at Chingwaru School in Murehwa, Mashonaland East Province, established in 1926. Past President Rutendo Mawoyo and Rotarian Tariro Nyakujara donated to several rural schools in Manicaland Province.

Past President Marian Mazingi clocked a total of 2,760 km, more than the distance from Harare to Cape Town, delivering books to:

- St Matthias Ruswa Primary, Wedza (366 km)
- Rudhanda Primary, Zaka (766 km)
- Vhudzi Primary, Zaka (518 km)
- Matova Primary, Gutu (610 km)
- Mabhugu Primary School, Mupandawana (500 km)

“The commitment by Rotarians at Harare Central is commendable, including the time and effort they spent to ensure that disadvantaged schools benefit.”

BASIC EDUCATION & LITERACY · ACROSS ZIMBABWE

US\$40,000 in Books for Wedza

On 9 September 2026, eight primary schools in Wedza District, Mashonaland East Province, received a generous donation of leisure books worth a combined US\$40,000 from the Rotary Club of Harare Central, as part of the club's commemoration of Literacy Month.

At the handover ceremony, held at Chemhanza Primary School, each of the eight beneficiary schools received US\$5,000 worth of books: Chemhanza, Mutupwizana, Numwa, Hwedza and Fels Estate Primary Schools (Way Forward cluster), along with Bolton, Fair Adventure and Dean Munyakwe Primary Schools (Watershed cluster). Club President Florence Jambwa, who completed her own primary education at Chemhanza Primary School, took the opportunity to address the learners and to introduce her former primary school classmate, who now heads one of the beneficiary schools.

President Jambwa reaffirmed the club's dedication to fostering education. "The books are intended to enhance reading programmes in schools," she said, underscoring the vital role of literacy in shaping future generations. She paid tribute to the club's partnership with Books for Africa and the Rotary Club of Maidstone Riverside in the United Kingdom.

The guest of honour, Mr Taungana Ndoro, Director of Communications and Advocacy in the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education, delivered a motivating keynote address on the transformative power of reading. He expressed profound gratitude to Rotary for the timely gesture and offered direct guidance to pupils and educators. With the national Grade 7 examinations due to begin on 21 September 2026, he used the platform to encourage the candidates, wishing all pupils across the country the very best.

"Pupils who are able to read will definitely pass examinations."

**MR TAUNGANA NDORO, MINISTRY OF
PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**

The ceremony drew a diverse and supportive gathering, including District Schools Inspector Mr Parira, represented by Schools Inspector Mr Chikanya, as well as parents, pupils, teachers, heads of the beneficiary schools and representatives of the Methodist responsible authority. The programme featured vibrant entertainment from learners, singing by the school choir and a performance by the Chemhanza High School Band, which has represented Zimbabwe at the African Union in Ethiopia.



Rotarians, guests and learners at the Wedza District book handover.

BASIC EDUCATION & LITERACY · ACROSS ZIMBABWE

Literacy Week: Chivi, Gweru and Zvimba

The Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education commemorated World Literacy Week from 21 to 25 September 2026, and the Rotary Club of Harare Central lined up three book handover events to mark it. Five schools in Chivi District, Masvingo Province, 360 km from Harare, received donations on 24 September, followed on 25 September by four schools in Gweru in the Midlands Province and further schools in Zvimba District, Mashonaland West Province.

In Chivi, the ward Councillor, traditional leadership and School Development Association leadership facilitated a colourful event, with learners performing plays, traditional dance and poetry on the importance of literacy and basic education. Shumba Primary School Headmaster Mr Tapiwa Chizure described the day as special in the history of the school, with Rotarians donating more than 400 books. “Reading is the foundation of all learning. For a long time, our school library has faced challenges. These books will now revive our library!” he said.



Learners in Chivi show off their new leisure books.

“These are not just books. They will unlock knowledge and open windows of new worlds to our learners.”

**MR TAPIWA CHIZURE, HEADMASTER,
SHUMBA PRIMARY SCHOOL**

In Gweru, Harare Central partnered with the Rotary Club of Gweru, the third year running that the two clubs have teamed up for Basic Education and Literacy. The handover took place at St Severino School, with Lukhuluba, Budiro, Nkululeko and St Severino schools benefiting. Past Presidents Mabel Hungwe and Tember Banda represented Harare Central, while Gweru President Kuda Tambaoga presided over the event and paid tribute to heads of schools who remain committed to improving learners' literacy.

The headmaster of Budiro School explained that reading allows children to open and sharpen their minds. “We assure you that the books will be put to good use. They will be read, and future doctors, nurses, teachers and engineers will emerge from these schools as a result of this intervention.”



Harare Central and Gweru club members teaming up for literacy.

BASIC EDUCATION & LITERACY · LUSAKA PROVINCE, ZAMBIA

Maluba Restocks the Library at Chikumbuso Community School

ROTARY CLUB OF MALUBA

K12,075 VALUE OF BOOKS AND MATERIALS DONATED

230 PUPILS SERVED, KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 7

The Rotary Club of Maluba has highlighted the transformative power of education in uplifting marginalised children, particularly those attending Chikumbuso Community School in Lusaka's Ng'ombe Compound. The school serves approximately 230 pupils from kindergarten through Grades 1 to 7, supported by a dedicated team of nine teachers and nine volunteers who give their time and skills.

In celebration of Basic Education and Literacy Month this September, the club donated educational books and materials valued at K12,075. The donation includes resources covering all subjects for Grades 1 to 7, early childhood books for kindergarten, and teaching guides tailored to each subject.

The project is well aligned with Rotary's goal of creating lasting impact through quality education for marginalised communities. By restocking the school's library, the initiative gives learners access to high-quality

educational materials, essential for improving literacy, fostering a love for reading and preparing students for future success.

“The donation comes at a crucial time, as our school lacked educational materials aligned with the new competency-based syllabus. This support will significantly aid both our teachers and learners in adapting to the updated curriculum.”

**MR MISHECK MVULA,
PRINCIPAL, CHIKUMBUSO
COMMUNITY SCHOOL**

The Rotary Club of Maluba's commitment to Chikumbuso Community School shows the positive impact community initiatives can have on local education, paving the way for brighter futures for the learners involved.



Rotary Club of Maluba members with teachers and learners at Chikumbuso Community School.

EDUCATION, MOBILITY & INCLUSION · NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCE, ZAMBIA

Solwezi Brings Books and Mobility Within Reach

ROTARY CLUB OF SOLWEZI

The Rotary Club of Solwezi continues to create lasting impact through practical community initiatives that respond to important needs in education, literacy, inclusion and mobility.

MAKING EDUCATION MORE ACCESSIBLE, 24 SEPTEMBER 2026

On 24 September 2026, the club took part in a book donation initiative supporting education and literacy in the community. A key feature was the availability of educational books translated into three local languages spoken in North-Western Province: Lunda, Kaonde and Luvale. This made learning materials more accessible and relevant to children and communities, while promoting reading and learning in familiar languages.

Held during Basic Education and Literacy Month, the initiative brought together Rotary members and community stakeholders committed to strengthening education. By supporting learning in local languages, the club demonstrated how community service can

respond to local needs while creating meaningful and lasting impact.

PROMOTING MOBILITY AND INDEPENDENCE, 2 OCTOBER 2026

On 2 October 2026, the club continued its service with a mobility-aid donation for community members living with mobility challenges. Wheelchairs, walkers and other mobility aids gave beneficiaries essential equipment to support their independence and participation in everyday life. Rotary members and volunteers were actively involved in the handover, assisting beneficiaries with the equipment, and the activity highlighted the teamwork behind mobilising resources and making sure support reached those who needed it most.

From local-language learning materials to mobility and independence, the club remains committed to creating lasting impact, one person, one family and one community at a time.



Rotary Club of Solwezi members and stakeholders at the book donation, 24 September 2026.



Mobility-aid beneficiaries with Rotary Club of Solwezi members, 2 October 2026.

BASIC EDUCATION & LITERACY · COPPERBELT PROVINCE, ZAMBIA

Ndola Backs Inclusive Learning at Ndola Day Care Special School

ROTARY CLUB OF NDOLA

In line with Basic Education and Literacy Month, the Rotary Club of Ndola reaffirmed its commitment to inclusive education by donating educational materials to learners at Ndola Day Care Special School in Ndola, Copperbelt Province.

The initiative recognised the important role education plays in improving the lives and future opportunities of all children, including those with special educational needs. By providing relevant learning materials, the club sought to contribute to a more supportive and inclusive environment in which learners can participate meaningfully in their education.

The donation was handed over by a club team led by President Ms Sekanayo N'gambi. Receiving it on behalf of Ndola Teaching Hospital was the Acting Head of Clinical Care, Dr Bright Chirengendure, together with the Head of Ndola Day Care Special School, Mr Joseph Chinjavata. Representatives from the Office of

the District Education Board Secretary (DEBS), led by Ms Leah Phiri, also attended.

For the Rotary Club of Ndola, the activity was more than a donation. It was an opportunity to listen to the needs of a vulnerable group within the community and respond through practical service.

The initiative also highlights the value of collaboration between Rotary, educational institutions, health institutions and government stakeholders in addressing community needs. While this donation has been completed, the club intends to keep engaging with schools and other community institutions to identify where Rotary can contribute meaningfully, putting Service Above Self into action so that children can learn, grow and reach their potential.

The club extends its appreciation to Ndola Teaching Hospital, Ndola Day Care Special School, the DEBS office and all partners who made the initiative possible.



HEALTH · TOGETHER WE GIVE · BULAWAYO, ZIMBABWE

Clearer Tomorrows for a Brighter Bulawayo

THE ROTARY CLUBS OF BULAWAYO · ROTARY FAMILY HEALTH DAYS, WHITE CITY STADIUM, 20–21 SEPTEMBER 2026

5 ROTARY CLUBS OF BULAWAYO PARTNERING ON THE PROGRAMME

As the sun rose over White City Stadium in Bulawayo, rows of chairs began to fill with community members who had travelled from different parts of the city and surrounding rural areas. Some arrived carrying reading materials they struggled to see, while others came with a simple hope: to regain the gift of clear vision.

The Rotary Family Health Days programme, under the theme “Together We Give, Restoring Vision”, had finally arrived. What began as months of planning among the five Rotary Clubs of Bulawayo, Rotary District 9210, RestoringVision, Specsavers Opticians, the City of Bulawayo and many dedicated volunteers was becoming a reality.

On the first morning, volunteers in Rotary-branded vests welcomed the growing crowd. Registration desks buzzed as elderly residents, vendors, artisans, farmers and small business owners waited patiently for their turn. Many had lived for years with deteriorating eyesight, accepting blurred vision as an unavoidable part of ageing.

2 DAYS OF FREE EYE SCREENING AND READING GLASSES

Among them was 68-year-old Mavis, a seamstress from Nkulumane. For months, threading a needle had become a frustrating challenge, and customers had begun taking their work elsewhere. After a quick eye screening, Mavis was guided to a table of reading glasses in different strengths, and a volunteer helped her try on a pair. At first, she blinked several times. Then she smiled. The tiny lettering on her sewing instructions came into focus for the first time in years.

“I can read this!”

MAVIS, SEAMSTRESS, NKULUMANE

Moments like these became the heartbeat of the programme. Over two days, trained screening teams worked tirelessly as community members moved through stations where their vision was assessed and health education was provided. Those needing further attention received referrals for specialised eye care; others left immediately with reading glasses that transformed their daily lives.

HEALTH · TOGETHER WE GIVE · BULAWAYO, ZIMBABWE

A vegetable vendor discovered she could once again read prices on her mobile phone. A retired teacher smiled as he read a newspaper headline without assistance. Farmers examined documents and seed packets with a clarity they had not experienced in years. Grandparents spoke excitedly about being able to help their grandchildren with homework again.

Despite the large turnout, the programme ran smoothly, with volunteers guiding participants, healthcare professionals screening efficiently and Rotarians ensuring everyone was treated with dignity and care. By the second day, word had spread across Bulawayo. The queues were longer, but so were the smiles.

As the last pairs of glasses were distributed, it was clear that people were leaving with more than spectacles. They were leaving with independence restored: the ability to read a text message, complete their work and engage more fully with the world around them. The two-day outreach proved that when organisations, professionals and communities unite with a common purpose, meaningful change is possible.

As the chairs were stacked away and tents dismantled, White City Stadium grew quiet once more. For hundreds of residents, the future now looks a little sharper, and for Bulawayo, the vision of a brighter tomorrow has become wonderfully clear.



Community members wait their turn during the two-day outreach.



Eye screenings under way at White City Stadium, with Specsavers Opticians.

WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE · COPPERBELT PROVINCE, ZAMBIA

Water Is Life: A New Beginning at Ndungu Primary School

ROTARY CLUB OF CHINGOLA METRO



The borehole handover at Ndungu Primary School.

73.4% OF ZAMBIANS HAD ACCESS TO BASIC DRINKING WATER IN 2024

58% ACCESS RATE IN RURAL AREAS OF ZAMBIA

There was a moment at Ndungu Primary School when the ordinary suddenly became extraordinary. A few turns of a handpump. A brief pause. Then, almost as if the earth itself had decided to answer, water came rushing from the nozzle.

The reaction was immediate. There were cheers, ululations and spontaneous singing as pupils gathered around the newly installed borehole. For the children, this was not simply water flowing from a handpump. It was a new source of life, health, dignity and hope.

The Rotary Club of Chingola Metro officially handed over the borehole, fitted with a handpump, to Ndungu Primary School in Chingola, Copperbelt Province, and the surrounding community, in a project aimed at improving access to safe water for learners and residents. The occasion was led by Club President Chetna Avadekar and brought

together District Commissioner Howard Kamwandi, District Education Board Secretary Hellen Mapipo, Head Teacher Banda Sihasile, members of staff, community leaders, Rotarians, Rotaractors, parents and, most importantly, the pupils themselves.

As the first water emerged, the pupils' cheers quickly turned into songs of appreciation, a joyful noise that needed no microphone and no rehearsal. It was gratitude in its purest form.

The celebration also highlighted a reality that extends far beyond the school gates. At a school, water means more than quenching thirst. It supports handwashing, sanitation and hygiene, reduces exposure to waterborne illness and lets children focus on learning rather than on finding water.

**The project offers
“an opportunity for a**

healthier, safer and more dignified future” for the children and community.

**PRESIDENT
CHETNA AVADEKAR**

President Avadekar urged the school and community to take ownership of the facility, use the water wisely and protect the investment so that it can serve generations of pupils. The club emphasised that its role is not to replace government efforts but to supplement them through partnerships and practical interventions.

District Commissioner Kamwandi, DEBS Mapipo and Head Teacher Sihasile all expressed appreciation to the club. But perhaps the most powerful thank-you came from the children themselves. For them, the borehole is now more than a structure on school grounds. It is the place where, on one unforgettable day, they watched the earth give back water.

Water is life. And today, Ndungu Primary School has a little more life flowing through it.

WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE · MASHONALAND EAST, ZIMBABWE

Rotary Club of Msasa, BMW Bikers Launch US\$5,000 Ride for Manyoshwa School Borehole

ROTARY CLUB OF MSASA

A sponsored charity ride seeks to replace a failing 1970s water system and unlock new education and income opportunities at the school.



Riders on the sponsored charity route in support of Manyoshwa Primary School.

A failing borehole that has served Manyoshwa Primary School, a government primary school in Seke District near Beatrice, Mashonaland East Province, since the 1970s is at the centre of a new fundraising drive, with the Rotary Club of Msasa and BMW Bikers for Charity seeking to raise US\$5,000 for a replacement.

The money will be raised through a sponsored charity bike ride launched by the two organisations. The project aims to restore reliable access to safe water for learners, teachers and the surrounding community, while improving sanitation and supporting the school's long-term development.

According to the Rotary Club of Msasa, the existing borehole now produces rusty water or stops working altogether. The unreliable supply has made it difficult for the school to maintain adequate hygiene and provide a healthy learning environment.

WATER FOR LEARNING, AND FOR LIVELIHOODS

The replacement borehole is also expected to support a horticultural garden at the school, producing vegetables and tree seedlings for sale. The garden would create a potential source of income while giving learners practical agricultural experience.

According to the school's headmaster, poverty has left many parents struggling to pay school fees. Income from the garden could help families settle outstanding fees, while proceeds from produce and seedlings could contribute to the school's operations.

The initiative is part of the Rotary Club of Msasa's wider support for Manyoshwa Primary School. In partnership with the Rotary Club of Formby in the United Kingdom and the Catalyst Foundation in Zimbabwe, the club has helped provide books,

reducing the average learner-to-book ratio from 28 learners per book to nine. The Rotary Club of Formby is also funding the painting of a school block, with work expected to begin within the next two weeks.

The sponsored ride brings together motorcycle enthusiasts, Rotarians, sponsors and community members in an effort to meet the US\$5,000 target. The organisers say the project reflects three of Rotary's areas of focus: water, sanitation and hygiene; basic education and literacy; and community economic development.

The Rotary Club of Msasa has thanked BMW Bikers for Charity, the Rotary Club of Formby, the Catalyst Foundation, participating riders and supporters for backing the campaign. For Manyoshwa Primary School, the fundraising effort is about more than replacing old infrastructure.

\$5,000 TARGET TO REPLACE THE FAILING BOREHOLE

28 → 9 LEARNERS PER BOOK, AFTER THE CLUB'S BOOK DONATIONS

One ride. One goal. A lasting impact.

DISEASE PREVENTION & TREATMENT · COPPERBELT PROVINCE, ZAMBIA

Ndola Central Launches Youth Against Malaria Project

ROTARY CLUB OF NDOLA CENTRAL

\$7,000 COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANT
FROM MALARIA PARTNERS
INTERNATIONAL

600+ LEARNERS AND TEACHERS REACHED
AT LAUNCH

The Rotary Club of Ndola Central has taken a bold step in the fight against malaria with the launch of the Youth Against Malaria Project at Chipulukusu Secondary School in Ndola, Copperbelt Province.

The initiative is funded by a \$7,000 Community Impact Grant from Malaria Partners International, whose ongoing support continues to power community-led malaria elimination efforts across Zambia. It is implemented in close collaboration with the Ndola District Health Office and the Rotaract Club of Ndola, showcasing the power of strategic Rotary partnerships.

PHASE 1: LAUNCH AT CHIPULUKUSU SECONDARY SCHOOL

The project launched by reaching more than 600 learners and teachers with crucial messaging on vector control, early diagnosis and treatment, and environmental management, setting the stage for a youth-led movement as students pledged to serve as advocates for

change in their homes and neighbourhoods. District Administrative Officer Bertha Sanda Bunga officiated on behalf of Ndola District Commissioner Precious Njekwa, with District Health Director Dr Lilian Nyendwa and other senior government officers in attendance.

PHASE 2: PEER EDUCATOR TRAINING, 9–11 SEPTEMBER 2026

The club then hosted an intensive three-day workshop at the Rotary Centre in Ndola, preparing 30 learners from Chipulukusu Secondary, Itawa Secondary and Mapalo Primary Schools to serve as Peer Educators in Malaria Prevention and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). The interactive sessions, comprising role-plays, group assignments and presentations, were facilitated by Sr Bwalya Kapapa, Nursing Officer and Adolescent Health Focal Point Person, and Ms Lucy Banda, Malaria Elimination Officer, both of the Ndola District Health Office.



Peer Educators from the three selected schools in a training session.

When you empower young people, you build a generation of resilient leaders equipped to eliminate malaria from the ground up.

DISEASE PREVENTION & TREATMENT · COPPERBELT PROVINCE, ZAMBIA

Sustainable Impact and the Way Forward

The 30 newly certified Peer Educators will lead peer-to-peer conversations, run community awareness campaigns and support District Health Office outreach across Chipulukusu and neighbouring schools. By equipping young leaders with actionable health literacy, the project directly advances Rotary's area of focus in Disease Prevention and Treatment, creating a ripple effect of lasting impact.

The club thanks Malaria Partners International for the grant and continuous technical assistance; the Ndola District Health Office for expert facilitation, coordination and resources; Sr Kapapa and Ms Banda; the Chipulukusu Secondary School administration; the Rotaract Club of Ndola, under President Iris Musukwa, for co-facilitating and mentoring the youth participants; and its own members for their hands-on service. Together, they are building a malaria-free Ndola.



Club President Sunrick Mpululuka presents Peer Educators with certificates.

HEALTH & DIGNITY · LUSAKA PROVINCE, ZAMBIA

Maluba Restores Dignity at Lusaka Central Female Correctional Facility

ROTARY CLUB OF MALUBA

The Rotary Club of Maluba has taken a significant step in addressing the overlooked needs of women in correctional facilities and the unique challenges faced by the children who live with them. In line with Rotary's commitment to health and well-being, the club identified an urgent need for accessible, reusable sanitary towels for female inmates.

Many women at the Lusaka Central Female Correctional Facility in Lusaka faced considerable difficulties during

menstruation, often without adequate sanitary products. This lack of resources not only jeopardised their physical health but also affected their mental well-being and their dignity.

After meeting with local officials to plan the donation, the club handed over 120 packs of ten reusable sanitary towels on 23 September 2026, together with a walking frame for a three-year-old child with cerebral palsy, supporting the child's mobility and overall well-being.



Rotary Club of Maluba members at the donation handover.

120 PACKS OF TEN REUSABLE SANITARY TOWELS DONATED

1 WALKING FRAME GIVEN TO A 3-YEAR-OLD CHILD WITH CEREBRAL PALSY

Give dignity. Give comfort. Give hope.

Through these efforts, the Rotary Club of Maluba demonstrated its dedication to improving health and well-being, in keeping with Rotary's wider commitment to empowering marginalised people and fostering sustainable community development.

COMMUNITY SERVICE · HARARE, ZIMBABWE

Open Your Cupboard, Open Your Heart

ROTARY CLUB OF BORROWDALE BROOKE, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH L'ARCHE ZIMBABWE



The Borrowdale Brooke team with the L'Arche family in Harare.

Sometimes, opening a cupboard can mean opening a heart. That was the spirit behind the Rotary Club of Borrowdale Brooke's "Open Your Cupboard, Open Your Heart" clothing drive, a simple call to individuals, families, friends and corporates to look around their homes and ask: What do I have that could bring joy, comfort or dignity to someone else?

The response was overwhelming.

A VISIT TO THE L'ARCHE FAMILY

On Monday, 28 September, the Borrowdale Brooke team visited the L'Arche family in Harare, Zimbabwe, carrying early Santa gifts: pre-loved clothing generously donated for everyone from newborn babies to children and adults. But what we witnessed was so much more than a donation.

L'Arche is part of an international community that brings together people with and without intellectual disabilities, with a strong emphasis on friendship,

belonging, dignity and recognising the unique contribution of every person. L'Arche Zimbabwe provides homes and programmes for people with intellectual disabilities, including day programmes, therapy, horticulture, poultry and outreach services that also support families in the wider community.

At L'Arche, people with intellectual disabilities are not simply recipients of care. They are members of a community, valued, included and encouraged to participate and contribute. The clothes may have arrived as bags of donations, but they quickly became something far more meaningful. There was singing, dancing, laughter, praise and celebration, and the excitement on the faces of the L'Arche community was infectious.

Generosity is not measured only by the size or value of what we give. Sometimes, it is the thought, the effort and the love behind the giving that matters most.

COMMUNITY SERVICE · HARARE, ZIMBABWE

Now We Open Our Hearts Again

Having experienced the joy a simple act of generosity can create, the club is moving into the next phase of its journey: “Stock Up L’Arche 4 Christmas”. Christmas is a time when we naturally think about our own families, our tables, our homes and the people we love. This year, we ask that we make room for L’Arche in those thoughts, and in our cupboards.

The campaign invites individuals, families, friends and corporates to contribute towards the everyday essentials the L’Arche community needs: food and groceries,

toiletries and cleaning supplies, household essentials, cooking gas, electricity support and other necessities. Every contribution matters, even simply opening a door and connecting the team with someone who can support the cause. Together, these small acts can stock up a cupboard and fill a home with hope.

So, as we approach Christmas, we invite you to join us. Let us Stock Up L’Arche 4 Christmas and make this festive season a little warmer, brighter and more joyful for the L’Arche family.



Handing over the first donations to the L’Arche family.



Get in touch with the project team

Milly: +263 788 057 377 | Bev: +263 77 855 6491 | Ndai: +263 78 263 1438

Every gift counts. Every cupboard can give. Every heart can make a difference.



The Great Zimbabwe **DISCON 2027**

21-25 APRIL 2027



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Lakeview Resort & Conference Center

More than just living



**Join us for a unique gathering of
leaders, innovators, and visionaries.**



Urban Lifestyle
30km from
Conference venue



21-25 APRIL 2027



Accommodation Prices /night

Presidential Suite	\$420
Parliamentary Suite	\$320
Executive Room	\$150
Deluxe Room	\$90
Standard Room	\$65

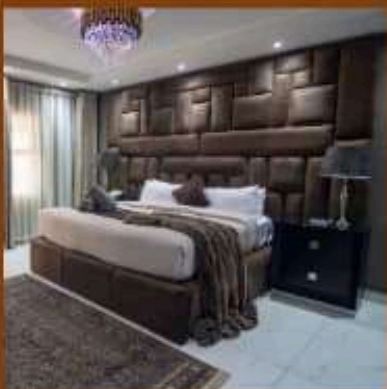
Breakfast	\$20 per person
Dinner	from \$20 per person

Ref (yr name & discon27)
Book early to secure your spot.

 reservations@urbanlifestyles.co.zw

 0789418320

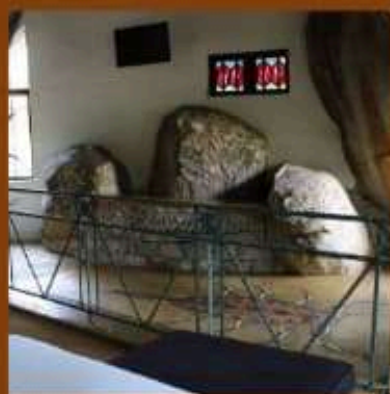
**BOOK
NOW**



Ancient City Lodge
5km from Conference
venue



21-25 APRIL 2027



Accommodation Rates /night

Single Room - \$130

Bed & Breakfast

Double Room - \$140

Bed & Breakfast

Ref (yr name & discon27)
Book early to secure your spot.



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**BOOK
NOW**

Great Zimbabwe Hotel
7km from Conference
venue



21-25 APRIL 2027



Accommodation Prices

Presidential Suite - \$450.00 per night

Executive Suite - \$320.00 per night

Deluxe Room - \$180.00 per night

Standard Room - \$130.00

Rotaractors Campsite - 2 adults
sharing a tent - \$40.00 per person
per night Bed & Breakfast

Ref (yr name & discon27)
Book early to secure your spot.



reservations@greatzimbabwehotels.com



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**BOOK
NOW**

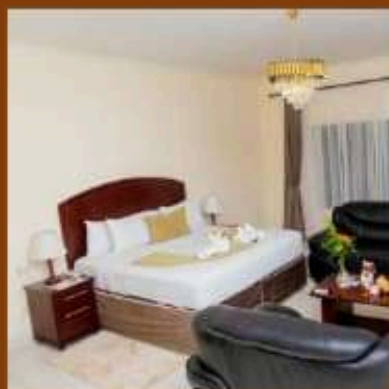


Clevers Lakeview Resort – Conference Venue



21-25 APRIL 2027

Rotary
District 9210



B&B ROOMS /NIGHT

EXECUTIVE B&B	\$200
DELUXE B&B	\$140
TWIN SHARING B&B	\$140
STANDARD DOUBLE B&B	\$120
STANDARD SINGLE B&B	\$100

STANDARD ROOMS /NIGHT

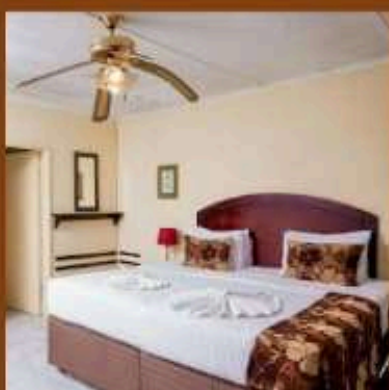
TWIN SHARING BED ONLY	\$110
STANDARD DOUBLE BED ONLY	\$90
STANDARD BED ONLY	\$80

SELF-CATERING /NIGHT

LODGE 1	\$250
LODGE 5	\$250
LODGE 4	\$200

BUDGET ROOMS /NIGHT

DOUBLE BED AND BREAKFAST	\$100
SINGLE BED AND BREAKFAST	\$80
DOUBLE BED ONLY	\$70
SINGLE BED ONLY	\$60



Ref (yr name & discon27)
Book early to secure your spot.

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cleverslakeviewresort@gmail.com

**BOOK
NOW**



Rotary
District 9210

Creating
Lasting Impact

Have a Story for the November Issue?

Submit your club's projects, inductions and milestones for the District 9210 newsletter.

Every story in this edition was written by a Rotarian, about Rotarians, for the district.

Rotary District 9210 | People of Action

#AlwaysChooseKindness #Unplugged2026 #D9210Serves
#ServiceAboveSelf



Rotary
District 9210



Rotaract
District 9210



Interact
District 9210

