

Celebrate Rotary Vocational Service Month - January

After a difficult year 2021, for all of us, the New Year 2022 ushers in hope, health, happiness and harmony.

It also reminds us that January is the Vocational Service month – a time for leveraging our vocational assets (expertise and experience) to enhance the second avenue of Rotary service, in alignment with



the Object of Rotary (“The Dignifying of each Rotarian’s Occupation as an Opportunity to Serve Society”).

How does it work?

The first two strands (“high ethical standards” and “recognition of all useful occupations”) are practised individually by all Rotarians in their personal, business, and professional lives.

The third strand “opportunity to serve society” requires organisation and strategic action in collaboration with others. ***Are you interested ?***

You can serve the disadvantaged members of our society (local, national and global)- *empower them by giving the most precious commodity you have – more important than money donation –giving your own professional technical expertise and your time, sharing your experience* . Unlike money, the expertise so transferred does not run out – empowered individuals and communities create better lives for them and may even empower others; it thus creates a cascading effect with sustainable impact.

Rotarians unleash the power of Vocational Service– Rotarians Stop Mothers Dying at Childbirth

Now some good news.

We are fortunate in our District 1120 to be counted as pioneers in developing and implementing Vocational Training Team (VTT) programmes . One vocational training-based project in Maternal and Child Health (MCH) is CALMED which started life in our District 1120 in 2013 and is continuing with uninterrupted support from our District Rotarians, in partnership with others.

CALMED (Collaborative Actions in Lowering of Maternity Encountered Deaths) is an example of how Rotarians from Rotary District 1120 are joining International Rotarians (England, India, Switzerland, Japan) for reduction of preventable maternal and new-born mortality in 3 tribal areas in India (population 5 million)- please visit <https://www.calmedrotary.org>.

Process – Vocational Training Team (VTT) visits (6 visits completed so far) from the UK by teams of Obstetricians to the target areas in India (tribal communities with high maternal and new-born deaths) delivered Structured Training (based on WHO recommended training) to local healthcare professionals, using simulators incorporating translational skills. A “training the trainer model” is used for skills training with simulators, upskilling and capacity development.



Simulation based skills training

Partnerships- Rotary, Indian Government, Health Professionals (the majority are non-Rotarians) ,Global NGOs are participants.

Programmes -Four District Grants (for situation analysis visits) and 3 high impact Global Grant VTTs all sponsored by District 1120 and supported by total funding of US \$ 206,000 and a team of 17 Doctors and Administrators ,contributed to the saving of lives.

Output – Since 2013, the programme trained 240 health professionals and over 500 healthcare assistants in 800 Communities. A modelled estimate suggested saving of 1500 lives (mothers and babies) in the target areas .

Recognition – The programme received several recognitions including Champion of Change award and the Times Sternberg prize.

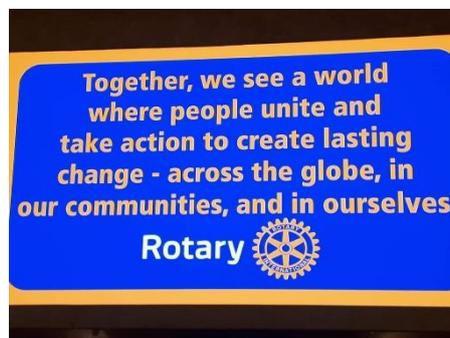
What can you do to celebrate the vocational service month (January)?

All Rotarians have dual responsibilities to represent their occupations in the Club and set examples of Rotary ideals in their places of work.

To celebrate vocational service month, you could follow steps 1,2. If you practise a profession (a doctor, nurse, engineer, teacher or other professional) ,and wish to harness your own vocational expertise to engage in vocational service opportunities, locally, nationally or globally ,you could additionally follow one or more of the steps 3-6.

- 1.** Raise awareness and create interest in vocational service in your Club – share the “Vocational Service in Action Handbook” in your Club (<https://my.rotary.org/en/document/introduction-vocational-service>)

2. **a.** Organise “ My Job” talks by Rotarians in your Club (brief presentations about individual Rotarians working life followed by discussions) – in selected Club meetings during January.
- b.** Encourage your Club to provide funding support to organisations supporting vocational programmes delivered by volunteer professionals- Mercy Ships (<https://www.mercyships.org>) , IMPACT Foundation (<https://impact.org.uk>) , Operation Smile (<https://www.operationssmile.org>) are examples amongst others.
3. Join and seek guidance from a Rotary Action Group (<https://my.rotary.org/en/take-action/empower-leaders/join-rotarian-action-group>) and/or Rotary Fellowship (<https://www.rotary.org/en/our-programs/more-fellowships>) , appropriate to your vocation- they have the expertise in specific vocation or occupation . Please ask your District International Committee Chairperson (D.I.S.C.) or District Vocational Service Committee Chairperson for additional information on how to establish contact with the appropriate Rotary Action Group or Rotary Fellowship.
4. Engage and volunteer to participate in an existing vocational service based programme ,where your skills can be used , in alignment with Rotary’s vision



with emphasis on partnership and sustainable impact. Using your personal talents, you will make a difference to the communities of your choice.

Please also consider lending your skills to Clubs in the District, or mentoring a young professional in your locality. You can share and extend the reach of your technical expertise, and assist the Rotary Foundation (TRF) by joining the TRF Cadre of Technical Advisors(<https://my.rotary.org/en/cadre-technical-advisers>). Details are available from the District Rotary Foundation Chairperson (D.R.F.C.)

5. Develop your own programme centred on Vocational Training Team (VTT) visits. Build your own training team (Club or District based), secure partnerships and seek support from the Rotary Foundation – through a District Grant, or a Global Grant in support of a Vocational Training Team Visit (VTT) – there could be a lasting legacy beyond the visits, of volunteer trainers ,training materials ,mentoring groups etc. Reward? – you could develop a high impact sustainable programme, making a huge difference to the benefitting communities.
6. Publicise your theme and your work in My Rotary Discussion Groups (Vocational Service ,VTT, and others).Face Book, LinkedIn, Tweeter etc.

Wish to know more, share your experiences or receive an invitation to join a My Rotary discussion group ? – please write to drhbasumd@gmail.com .

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