

Rotary Partners

Rotary has added two service partners that offer clubs new ways to collaborate with other organizations and strengthen their projects: Habitat for Humanity and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB).

Habitat for Humanity, one of Rotary's newest service partners, builds homes for families in need, and provides opportunities for hands-on community service.

Habitat for Humanity has a long history of working with Rotarians and Rotaractors to build the types of low-cost shelters that now qualify for global grant funding, under a recent Board decision. It's also a natural fit for Rotary's approach to vocational service, which encourages members to use their professional skills to help others.

When the Rotary Club of Alpharetta, Georgia, USA, participated in a Habitat home building project in the Atlanta area earlier this year, members showed up ready to work and lend their professional expertise. Randy Schiltz, who owns a construction firm, helped the new homeowners pre-drill holes to prepare for installing siding. Interior decorator Glennette Haynes, who works with people in transitional housing, was there to offer advice on furnishing and decorating their homes.

Habitat for Humanity International Chief Executive Officer Jonathan Reckford is a member of the Rotary Club of Atlanta. During the 2017 Rotary International Convention there, volunteers gathered on-site to help construct the wood framing for a home.

Rotary's values are also closely aligned with IAPB (International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness), a membership organization that brings together government and nongovernmental agencies, academics, and private providers to plan and implement sustainable eye care programs.

Rotary is a global organization with members in nearly every community around the world, and the cause of eye health is just as universal.

A global grant project in India, one of three pilot projects with IAPB, aims to improve access to eye care in Karol Bagh, a neighborhood in New Delhi, where private eye doctors and facilities are available but unaffordable for many. Local Rotary clubs worked with the International Eye Foundation, an IAPB member, to raise funds and supply medical equipment for vision screenings and treatment at an eye hospital's new facility. They also worked to design a social enterprise to sustain the hospital's charitable outreach programs.

The two new partners join Rotary's current partners:

- AmazonSmile
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Dolly Parton's Imagination Library
- Global FoodBanking Network
- Institutes for Economics and Peace
- Peace Corps

- ShelterBox
- UNICEF
- U.S. Agency for International Development
- U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- World Health Organization
- YSA (Youth Service America)