

介紹扶輪青少年網絡

你如何從最壞中創造出最好？

我們沒有人會忘記新冠疫情如何影響我們的世界及我們的生活。我們每個人都必須熬過這段不確定期，沒有人得以豁免其影響。

我個人相信這創造了一種不同的全球領導人——一種有勇氣、有同理心、易受傷害的領導人。我在2020年年初在網路上認識我的好朋友安妮拉·卡拉賽朵，她便是這樣的領導人，我很開心能把這一期的專欄交給她撰寫。

——珍妮佛·瓊斯 Jennifer Jones



安妮拉·卡拉賽朵1月分在佛羅里達州奧蘭多的國際講習會中發表演說。

2020年3月，我的恐慌症發作。我無法呼吸，感到劇烈胸痛。

那是在世界衛生組織宣布新冠病毒為全球大流行病後幾天，我當時人正在美國進行一年扶輪青少年交換的半途之中。試想：一個18歲的女孩困在異國，講著外語，和她只認識6個月的人在一起。真是嚇人。

可是我對不確定很熟悉。我在委內瑞拉出生長大，我的國家正在經歷西半球最嚴重的人道及政治危機。可是我的母親總是說：「挑戰只不過是必須解決的需求。」

我打電話給我扶少團及青少年交換的朋友。我們一起籌劃了一場線上會議來分享彼此的計畫，並從他人在隔離期間所做的事汲取靈感。在第一次會議中，我們有來自17個國家的70個人參加，大部分是學生。

從那開始，我們為全世界扶輪青少年建立一個網路平台，讓他們在隔離期間分享經驗，用計畫構想來啟發他人。我們尋找導師及支持者來幫助我們這群人來連結年輕人、分享文化並開啟新的國際服務計畫合作機會。我們稱之為扶輪互動隔離 (Rotary Interactive Quarantine, RIQ)。

僅僅一年後，我們連結了80個國家5,000多位學生。我們團隊的成員有幾位成為地區扶少團代表及地區委員會委員，我們有些人甚至成為國際扶輪會議代表。

最後，隔離限制解除，我們參與者的需求也有所改變。在我們最後一場RIQ正式會議，前國際扶輪社長拉辛 Barry Rassin 激勵我們要創造更大的改變，因此我們把RIQ轉型為扶輪青少年網絡 (Rotary Youth Network)，簡稱RYN。

我們包括我在內的幾位成員當選為第一屆扶輪少年服務團諮詢會議 (Interact Advisory Council) 代表，會中我們向國際扶輪理事會提出對年輕人對扶輪的願景。

我們對理事會的報告促使珍妮佛社長及她的團隊在國際扶輪成立一個青少年諮詢會議 (Youth Advisory Council)，我很榮幸擔任其副主委。

扶輪青少年網絡在2022年休士頓國際扶輪年會中，正式在一場分組討論中成立。我們其中5個人——曾參與過扶少團、青少年交換，及扶輪青少年領袖獎——跨越各洲大陸，成立一個我們2年前在網路上發起的一個組織。這場年會是我們第一次見到彼此本人。

當我和朋友發表完談話，我們發現有超過500人為我們起立鼓掌。我們熱淚盈眶，充滿興奮及成就感。

誰會想到一次恐慌症發作最後會促成這一切？

安妮拉·卡拉賽朵 ANNELA CARRACEDO

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Introducing the Rotary Youth Network

How do you take the best from the worst?

None of us will forget how the pandemic altered our world and our lives. Each of us had to traverse this period of uncertainty, and no one had a free pass from the effects.

I personally believe this has created space for a different kind of global leadership — one that is courageous, empathetic, and vulnerable. I met my good friend Anniela Carracedo online in early 2020. She is one such leader, and I'm thrilled to turn this month's column over to her.

— JENNIFER JONES



Anniela Carracedo addresses the International Assembly in January in Orlando, Florida.

In March 2020, I had a panic attack. I couldn't breathe, and I felt a terrible pain in my chest.

It had been a few days since the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic, and I was in the middle of my year as a Rotary Youth Exchange student in the United States. Think about it: an 18-year-old girl stuck in a different country, with a foreign language, with people she had only met six months before. It was scary.

But I am familiar with uncertainty. I was born and raised in Venezuela, which is going through one of the worst humanitarian and political crises in the Western Hemisphere. But my mom always said, "Challenges are nothing more than needs that require a solution."

I called up my Interact and Youth Exchange friends. Together, we organized an online meeting to share projects and get inspired by what everyone else was doing during the quarantine. In that first meeting, we had 70 people, mainly students, from 17 countries.

From that beginning, we built an online platform for Rotary youths worldwide to share their experiences and inspire others with project ideas during isolation. We looked for mentors and supporters who would help our group connect young people, share cultures, and open new collaborative opportunities for international service projects. We called it Rotary Interactive Quarantine, or RIQ.

After only a year, we engaged with more than 5,000 students from 80 countries. Several of our team members became district Interact representatives and district committee members, and some of us even

serve on Rotary International councils.

Eventually, quarantine restrictions were being lifted, and the needs of our participants were changing. At our last official meeting as RIQ, Past RI President Barry Rassin inspired us to create even bigger change, so we transformed RIQ into the Rotary Youth Network, or RYN.

A few of our members, including me, were selected to serve on the inaugural Interact Advisory Council, where we presented our vision for youth in Rotary to the RI Board of Directors.

Our presentation to the Board inspired President Jennifer and her team to create a Youth Advisory Council in Rotary International, which I am honored to serve on as a co-chair.

The Rotary Youth Network officially launched during a breakout session at the 2022 Rotary International Convention in Houston. Five of us, who had participated in Interact, Youth Exchange, and Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, traveled across continents to launch an organization we had kicked off online two years before. The convention was the first time we had met in person.

When my friends and I finished our talk, we realized more than 500 people were giving us a standing ovation. Tears filled our eyes, and the feeling of excitement and accomplishment took over.

Who would have thought that a panic attack would lead to this?

ANNIELA CARRACEDO

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