

社長文告



Samuel Zuder

多年來，我和蘇珊在我們家接待過許多扶輪青少年交換學生。這個計畫對我來說，是進入扶輪的接點，而我真心投入這項計畫。當扶輪的交換計畫因為疫情而中止以確保學生及各家庭安全時，我們深感遺憾，尤其是為參加者，因為這幾年的時間而無法重來。

由於疫情的諸多不確定性，扶輪理事會決定暫停實體交流到2022年6月。當我們懷抱希望展望未來之際，我們感謝青少年交換職員、接待家庭，及義工在過去幾年的貢獻，我們鼓勵地區提供虛擬交換，作為世界各地學生與彼此及社區串連的方式。

對於無法參與扶輪青少年交換的人，扶輪提供其他機會。「新世代服務交換」是一項值得更多肯定的服務計畫：它提供大好機會讓18到30歲的年輕人以個人或團體形式參與社區服務並獲得實習經驗。來自辛巴威的扶青社社員席姆凱·馬沙拉加(Simukai Matshalaga)在三年前進行新世代服務交換期間，曾住過我們在拉茲堡的家。

當我申請新世代服務交換計畫時，並沒有瞭解到我是在報名一項改變生命的體驗。這個計畫給我這樣的機會以及其他許多東西。它讓我學會錯中學更快以及做自己的重要。

我最棒的體驗中有些發生在晚餐餐桌。我住過的每個家庭的溫暖及親切至今仍縈繞我心。我花了好幾個星期才明白陌生人對我的關愛可以有多深切，就像這些扶輪家庭成員一樣。從這些優秀的人身上學到的謙卑讓我深受

啟發。我慢慢瞭解一個新文化，並體驗到分隔人類唯一的事物就是我們的經歷以及——有時候——我們錯誤的假設。

從專業上來說，它讓我對我自己擔任工程師的能力有信心。看到其他機構如何處理問題讓我察覺到解決祖國各種挑戰的最佳人選就是我自己。從德國北部返國後，我婉拒升遷、辭掉工作，並開始創立一個家族企業——這是一個我之前絕對不會做出的決定，就因為恐懼。

我由衷感謝扶輪大家庭。我不確定我告別的朋友、輔導員，及接待家庭是否知道他們永遠改變我的人生。我希望他們現在知道了。

新世代服務交換改變席姆凱的生命。它也可以改變你的。所有的扶輪社員可以在任何時候有類似的體驗：我鼓勵每個人這個月可以進行虛擬之旅，造訪其他扶輪社的網路例會。在你認識優秀的人並結交新朋友之際，你會看到世界各地的扶輪有多麼不同。

讓我們以這些透過網路締結的關係為基礎——並在日後，時機合宜時，透過另一項適合扶輪各年齡層成員的優良計畫「扶輪友誼交換」，來享受面對面交流。

我們親自碰面的能力在此時非常有限，可是我們知道扶輪打開機會，隨時隨地。現在就要準備就緒，以便在疫情過去的時候，讓扶輪的交換計畫重新回歸，比以往更強健，服務一個渴望重新連結的世界。



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



FOR YEARS, SUSANNE AND I hosted many Rotary Youth Exchange students in our home. This program was an entry point to Rotary for me, and my heart is truly in it. When Rotary's exchange programs were suspended because of COVID-19 to keep students and families safe, we felt sorry, especially for the participants, because those years cannot be repeated.

Because of the many uncertainties of the pandemic, the Rotary Board has decided to suspend in-person exchanges through June 2022. As we look ahead with hope, we thank Youth Exchange officers, host families, and volunteers for their contributions in years past, and we encourage districts to offer virtual exchanges as a way of connecting students around the world with each other and with our communities.

For those who are not able to participate in Rotary Youth Exchange, Rotary offers other opportunities. New Generations Service Exchange (NGSE) is a Rotary program that deserves wider recognition: It is an excellent opportunity for young people ages 18 to 30 to participate in community service as individuals or in a group and to gain internship experience. Simukai Matshalaga, a Rotaractor from Zimbabwe, stayed with us in Ratzeburg during her NGSE experience three years ago.

When I applied for the New Generations Service Exchange program, I did not realize that I was signing up for a life-changing experience. This program gave me that opportunity and much more. It taught me about the importance of failing fast, learning quicker, and being myself.

Some of my greatest experiences happened at the dinner table. The warmth and kindness of every home I lived in still resonate with me today. It took me weeks to understand how a stranger could care for me as deeply as these

members of the Rotary family did. I am inspired by the lessons of humility I learned from all the amazing people I met. I came to understand a new culture and realized that the only things that separate us as people are our experiences and, at times, our false assumptions.

Professionally, it gave me confidence in my own abilities as an engineer. Seeing how other organizations handled problems made me aware that the best person to solve the challenges in my country was me. Returning home from northern Germany, I declined a promotion, quit my job, and began building a family business — a decision that previously I would have never made, out of fear.

I am indebted to the Rotary family. I am not sure whether the friends, mentors, and families I left behind knew that they changed my life permanently. I hope they now do.

New Generations Service Exchange changed Simukai's life. It can change yours, too. All Rotary members can experience something similar at any time: I encourage everyone to take a virtual journey this month and visit meetings of other clubs online. You will see how different Rotary is around the world as you meet great people and make new friends.

Let us build upon these connections forged online — and later, when the time is right, enjoy in-person exchanges through Rotary Friendship Exchange, another excellent program for Rotary members of all ages.

Our ability to meet in person is limited now, but we know that *Rotary Opens Opportunities*, always. Now is the time to get ready, so that when the pandemic is behind us, Rotary's exchange programs will come back stronger than before, serving a world that is yearning to reconnect.



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