Rotary
Club Kigali Mont Jali

UNITE FOR GOOD

Annual Report

2025–2026









Reporting Period:
July 2025 – June 2026

Executive Summary

The Rotary Year 2025–2026 has been a year of growth, service, innovation, and meaningful impact for Rotary Club Kigali Mont Jali.

Guided by a shared vision of building a dynamic, inclusive, and service-driven club, members worked together to strengthen fellowship, expand community impact, invest in future leaders, and deepen their commitment to Rotary's ideals.

This year was marked by several historic achievements. Rotary Club Kigali Mont Jali proudly became a **100% End Polio Giving Club**, with every active member contributing **USD 25** to Rotary International's global effort to eradicate polio. The club also recorded its strongest Foundation performance to date by securing **eight new Paul Harris Fellow recognitions** in a single Rotary year—the highest number achieved since the club's inception. Members further exceeded the club's Endowment Fund target by contributing **USD 2,500 against a goal of USD 2,000**, reflecting a growing culture of generosity and commitment to The Rotary Foundation.

Our commitment to service translated into tangible community impact. The club raised **3,275,000 RWF** in support of Solid Africa, helping provide meals to hospitalized patients in need. Through a partnership with **IHS Rwanda**, members successfully implemented a **26,250,000 RWF** project in support of Autism Rwanda, promoting inclusion and improving learning opportunities for children with autism. The club also contributed **400,000 RWF** to the Rotaract-led **ECORATA250** initiative, supported **OIPPA** with a contribution of **1,000,000 RWF** and **24 skin-protection lotions** secured through our partnership with KIPHARMA, and coordinated **Kwibuka32,** bringing together nearly **100 Rotarians and Rotaractors** from across Rwanda in remembrance, reflection, and unity.

Another major milestone was the successful completion of the **Rwinyoni Water Project**, a Global Grant initiative valued at **USD 35,050**. Implemented in partnership with Rotary Club Vitré (France), Rotary Club Newton (United Kingdom), ACEV France, Districts 9150, 1650 and 1175, and the District of Rutsiro, the project improved access to clean water for approximately **1,000 families** and **900 students** at Groupe Scolaire Rwinyoni.

Beyond its own projects, the club actively supported initiatives across the Rotary Rwanda Family. RCKMJ members participated in **RYLA 2025–2026**, and the club contributed **400,000 RWF** towards youth leadership development, and joined the celebration of the **25th Anniversary of Rotary Club Kigali Virunga.** As part of the anniversary campaign supporting the Kigali Public Library, Rotary Club Kigali Mont Jali donated **120 books**, reaffirming Rotary's commitment to literacy, education, and lifelong learning.

Internally, the club continued to invest in its future. A strategic partnership was established with **Mövenpick Hotel Kigali**, enabling the club to return to a venue that holds an important place in its history and where many of its early memories and traditions were built. The club also launched its **first-ever website** (www.rckmj.org), creating a permanent digital presence and increasing its visibility locally and internationally. In addition, **three new members** joined the Rotary family, contributing to the club's growth, sustainability, and strong membership retention.

As the year concludes, Rotary Club Kigali Mont Jali stands stronger, more visible, and more connected than before. The achievements reflected in this report are the result of the collective commitment, generosity, and friendship of our members, partners, and supporters.

Together, we strengthened our club.
Together, we served our communities.
Together, we lived Rotary.



Message From The President

Claver Irakoze
President 2025–2026 | Rotary Club Kigali Mont Jali

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

As we conclude the Rotary Year 2025–2026, my heart is filled with gratitude.

Serving as President of Rotary Club Kigali Mont Jali has been a privilege, made possible by the commitment, friendship, and generosity of so many people who chose to serve alongside one another throughout the year.

First and foremost, I would like to thank every member of Rotary Club Kigali Mont Jali. Thank you for your trust, your engagement, your participation in club life, and your unwavering belief in the power of service. Every meeting attended, every contribution made, every project supported, and every word of encouragement helped shape the year we have had together.

My sincere appreciation goes to our Assistant Governors, **Suman Alla** and **Carole Karema Jeni**, for their guidance, availability, and constant encouragement throughout the year. I am equally grateful to our District Governor, **Claude Cherubala**, whose leadership, support, and commitment to Rotary continue to inspire clubs across District 9150.

I would also like to thank the leaders and members of the Rotaract Clubs with whom we collaborated during the year. Your energy, creativity, and dedication remind us that Rotary's future is bright.
To our partners, friends of Rotary, and all organizations that worked alongside us in serving our communities, thank you for your trust and collaboration. Together, we achieved far more than any one organization could have accomplished alone.

A special word of appreciation goes to the outgoing Executive Committee and Commission Leaders. Your commitment, teamwork, and willingness to go the extra mile made it possible for our club to enjoy a year of growth, fellowship, and service. The achievements reflected in this report are a testament to our collective effort.

Finally, I warmly congratulate and welcome the incoming leadership team. The club is in capable hands, and I look forward to supporting President Rosine Uwamariya, her committee, and all members as they continue this journey of service and friendship under the Rotary International theme, "**Create Lasting Impact.**"

Thank you all for making this year memorable. The friendships we strengthened, the lives we touched, and the lessons we learned will remain among the most meaningful rewards of this journey.

Yours in Rotary Service,

Claver Irakoze
President 2025–2026 | Rotary Club Kigali Mont Jali

Club Administration and Member Engagement

“Building a Stronger Club”



Our Vision

The Rotary Year 2025–2026 began with a simple but ambitious goal: to build a dynamic, inclusive, and service-driven club where every member could contribute meaningfully and experience the true spirit of Rotary.
Throughout the year, we invested not only in projects, but also in the people, relationships, and structures that make sustainable service possible. By strengthening fellowship, governance, leadership continuity, and member engagement, we laid the foundation for a year of growth and impact.

Fellowship: The Heartbeat of Our Club

Fellowship remained the driving force behind club life throughout the year.

Through more than **20 fellowship meetings**, members came together to exchange ideas, strengthen friendships, welcome guests, and advance the club's service agenda. Discussions covered Foundation giving, youth engagement, service projects, leadership development, and strategic planning.

Several moments stood out. In October 2025, the club welcomed District Governor **Claude Cherubala** during his official visit, providing an opportunity to reflect on achievements and future aspirations. The special fellowship dedicated to **Solid Africa** in November demonstrated how fellowship can be transformed into action, ultimately leading to support for thousands of patients in need.

The club also welcomed visiting Rotarians from Kenya, Denmark, Finland and fellow Rotary and Rotaract clubs across Rwanda, strengthening international friendships and expanding opportunities for collaboration.
More than meetings, these gatherings nurtured the friendships and shared purpose that continue to define Rotary Club Kigali Mont Jali.

Strong Governance and Leadership Continuity

Strong clubs thrive on planning, accountability, and continuity.

Two General Assemblies provided important opportunities for reflection and decision-making. The first, held in August 2025, adopted the club's Action Plan and aligned members around shared priorities. The second, held in December 2025, reviewed progress and prepared the club for the second half of the Rotary year.

The December General Assembly also strengthened leadership continuity through the election of future leaders. **Rosine Uwamariya** was elected President-Elect for 2026–2027, while **Aimable Bayingana** was elected President-Nominee for 2027–2028.

Throughout the year, the Executive Committee and Commission Leaders worked closely together to coordinate activities, monitor progress, and ensure the successful delivery of club objectives.



Friendship Beyond Service

Rotary friendships continued to flourish beyond formal meetings.

Through camaraderies and home hospitality events, members and their families created opportunities to connect, celebrate, and strengthen personal relationships.

Highlights included gatherings hosted **by Rudi Meurant, Aimable Bayingana, and PHF Inès Buki,** as well as a camaraderie held at Mövenpick Hotel Kigali following the club's return to the venue.

These moments reinforced an important truth: strong friendships are often the foundation upon which meaningful service is built.





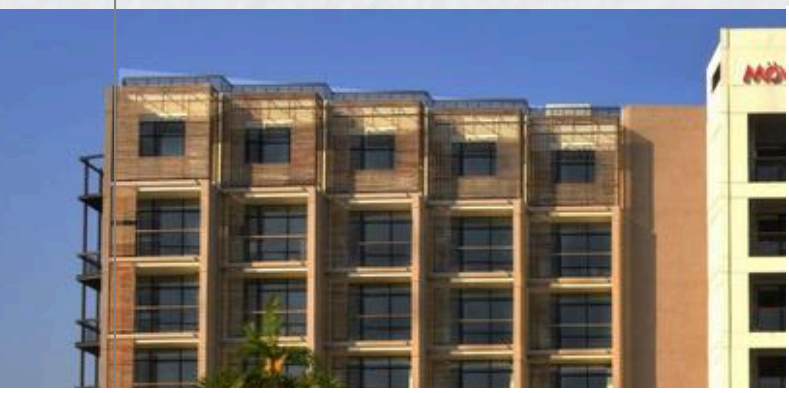
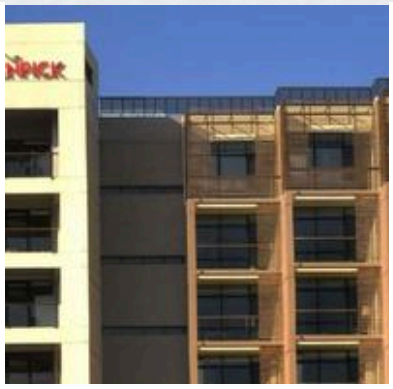


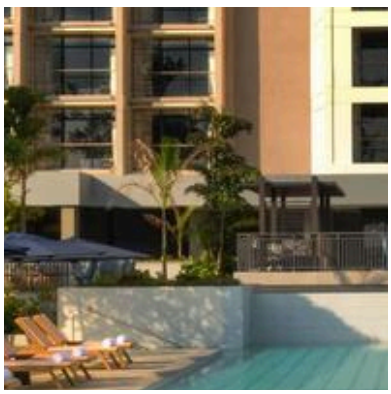
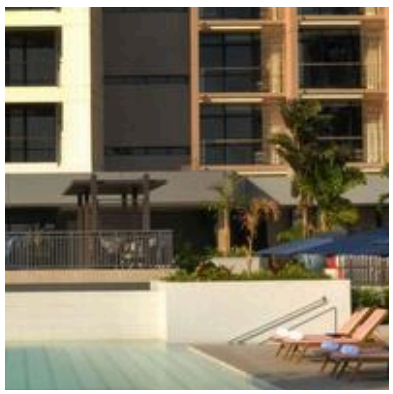
Returning Home: The Mövenpick Partnership

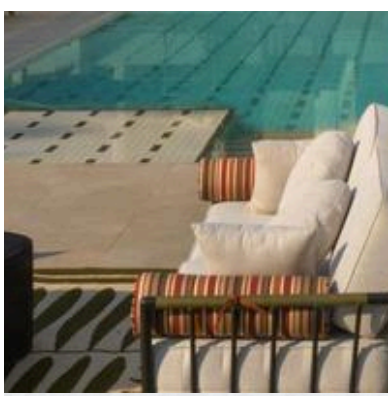
One of the most symbolic achievements of the year was the club's return to **Mövenpick Hotel Kigali.** Since March 2026, Rotary Club Kigali Mont Jali has resumed holding its fellowship meetings at the hotel on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, reconnecting with a venue that holds an important place in the club's history.

For many members, the venue represents an important chapter in the history of Rotary Club Kigali Mont Jali. Before its renovation and transformation into Mövenpick, it served as the club's fellowship venue and witnessed many memorable moments in the club's journey.

Beginning in March 2026, this new partnership enabled the club to reconnect with this historic home. Beyond providing a professional meeting environment, the partnership enhanced the club's visibility, strengthened ties with the private sector, and opened new opportunities for collaboration.
The return to Mövenpick was therefore more than a venue change—it was a reconnection with the club's heritage and identity.



Recognizing Excellence

This year also introduced a new tradition aimed at celebrating commitment and inspiring excellence.

For the first time, the club established an annual recognition for outstanding service within Rotary Club Kigali Mont Jali. The inaugural recognition was awarded to **Carine Gatabazi** in appreciation of her exemplary service and dedication as Club Treasurer over the past three years.

The initiative reflects the club's belief that excellence deserves recognition and that celebrating service encourages greater engagement across the membership.



Building a Stronger Club at a glance

- **20+ fellowship meetings held**
- **2 General Assemblies conducted**
- **5 camaraderies and home hospitality events organized**
- **2 future leaders elected**

- Strategic partnership established with Mövenpick Hotel Kigali
- New member recognition initiative (“recognizing excellence”) launched
- Membership maintained at 40+ active members (with 3 members joining and one leaving).
- Leadership continuity exercised

Community Service and Projects

Turning Compassion into Action

At the heart of Rotary lies service.

Throughout the 2025–2026 Rotary year, Rotary Club Kigali Mont Jali transformed fellowship into action, partnerships into impact, and generosity into lasting change. Working alongside fellow Rotarians, Rotaractors, partners, and communities, the club invested in projects that improved lives, promoted inclusion, strengthened communities, and inspired hope.

From access to clean water and support for children with autism to food security, youth empowerment, public health, literacy, and remembrance, every initiative reflected Rotary's commitment to **Service Above Self**.







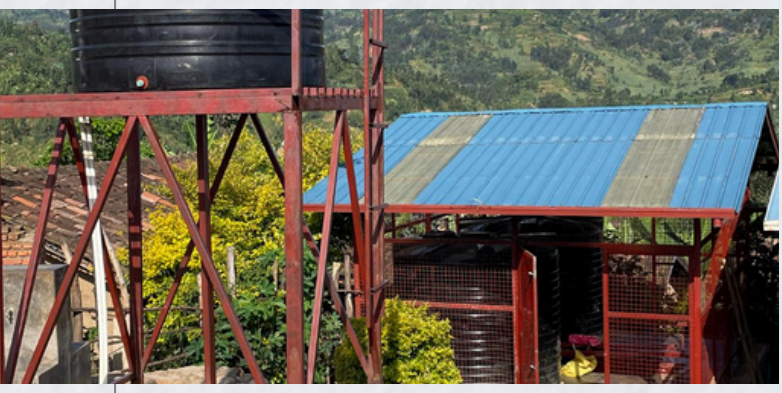








Community Service and Projects





Rwinyoni Water Project

Bringing Clean Water Closer to Communities

One of the year's most significant milestones was the successful completion of the Rwinyoni Water Project, a Global Grant initiative valued at USD 35,050. Implemented in partnership with Rotary Club Vitré (France), Rotary Club Newton (United Kingdom), ACEV France, Districts 9150, 1650 and 1175, and the District of Rutsiro, the project improved access to clean water for approximately:

💧 **1,000 families | 🎓 900 students at Groupe Scolaire Rwinyoni**

Beyond improving health and hygiene, the project reduced the burden of long-distance water collection and created a healthier learning environment for children.

Global Grant value	Reach
USD 35,050	**1,000 Families** **900 Students**

International Rotary partnerships mobilized

End Polio

Walking Together Toward a Polio-Free World

Rotary Club Kigali Mont Jali continued to support Rotary's flagship global initiative: the eradication of polio.

On **19 October 2025**, members joined fellow Rotarians and Rotaractors during the annual **End Polio Walk**, coordinated by **Rotary Club Kigali Doyen** during Kigali's Car Free Day activities.

The club contributed **150,000 RWF** towards the event and actively participated in the awareness walk.

Beyond this local contribution, Rotary Club Kigali Mont Jali achieved a major milestone by becoming a **100% End Polio Giving Club.** Every active member contributed **USD 25**, enabling the club to collectively donate **USD 1,000** to Rotary International's End Polio Fund.

100% End Polio Giving Club

150,000 RWF contributed locally towards End Polio awareness walk	**USD 1,000** donated globally toward End Polio Fund
100% member participation achieved	**100%** End Polio Giving Club



Autism Rwanda

Advancing Inclusion Through Partnership

Inclusion remained a strong priority throughout the year.

Through a partnership with **IHS Rwanda**, Rotary Club Kigali Mont Jali implemented a project valued at **26,250,000 RWF** in support of Autism Rwanda.

The initiative culminated in December 2025 with the handover of educational, digital, sensory, and recreational resources designed to improve learning opportunities and overall well-being for children with autism.

Beyond the material support, the project also focused on awareness, advocacy, and family engagement. In partnership with Autism Rwanda, the club organised **two autism awareness and parent engagement workshops,** held on **24 October 2025** and **17 November 2025**, creating opportunities for learning, dialogue, and support among 40 parents and caregivers.

To further strengthen visibility and advocacy efforts, a **short documentary film** was produced, helping raise awareness about autism and promoting a more inclusive society.
More than a donation, the project was a statement of solidarity and advocacy for inclusive education.
Every child deserves the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive.

Project value:

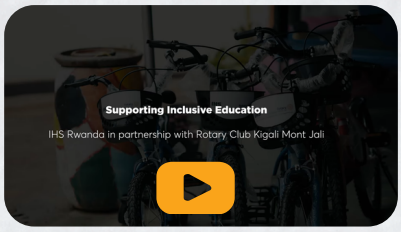
26,250,000 RWF

Partnership

with IHS Rwanda and Autism Rwanda

Engagement

2 parent engagement workshops organized & 40 parents and caregivers reached



Scan to Watch the Documentary Here

Educational, digital and sensory resources delivered

Documentary film produced

Inclusion and advocacy strengthened







Solid Africa

Feeding Hope, Restoring Dignity

One of the most inspiring moments of the year was the club's partnership with **Solid Africa**.

On 18 November 2025, Rotary Club Kigali Mont Jali dedicated a special fellowship meeting to raising awareness and mobilizing support for hospitalized patients facing food insecurity.
Through the generosity of Rotarians, Rotaractors, friends, and partners, the club raised **3,275,000 RWF,** enabling Solid Africa to provide nutritious meals to **3,275 patients across public hospitals in Rwanda.**

The initiative also reflected the club's commitment to intergenerational service. Rotaractors actively participated alongside Rotarians during the fellowship, the subsequent learning visit to Solid Africa's farm in Rugende and industrial kitchen in Rusororo, and the meal distribution activity at CHUK.

3,275,000 RWF Raised









3,275
Patients supported



Fellowship transformed into community action

60+
Rotarians, Rotaractors and friends mobilized



Supporting OIPPA (Organization for Integration and Promotion of People with Albinism)

Standing with Persons Living with Albinism

Rotary Club Kigali Mont Jali continued its longstanding relationship with OIPPA and its commitment to supporting persons living with albinism.

The club contributed **1,000,000 RWF** towards activities marking the International Day of Reflection on Albinism and donated: **24 skin-protection lotions** secured through KIPHARMA.

These contributions addressed important health needs while promoting dignity, inclusion, and awareness.







- **1,000,000 RWF contributed**
- **24 skin-protection lotions donated**
- **Partnership with KIPHARMA strengthened**

ECORATA250

Living Rotary with Rotaractors

- **400,000 RWF contributed**
- **Rotarians and Rotaractors served side by side**
- **Environmental conservation supported**
- **Intergenerational learning strengthened**

Rotary Club Kigali Mont Jali remains deeply committed to strengthening relationships with Rotaract and supporting young leaders.
This commitment was demonstrated through active participation in **ECORATA250**, a nationwide Rotaract-led initiative combining environmental conservation and community support.
The club contributed: 🌱 **400,000 RWF**
Beyond financial support, members participated directly in the activities, working alongside Rotaractors in a spirit of partnership, mentorship, and intergenerational learning.





Community Service and Projects





RYLA 2025–2026

Investing in Young Leaders

The club further demonstrated its commitment to youth development through support to RYLA 2025–2026, coordinated by Rotary Club Kigali Virunga and hosted in Rwanda at District level.

Rotary Club Kigali Mont Jali contributed:

🎓 **400,000 RWF**

towards the successful organization of the event and actively participated alongside other Rotary clubs from across the district.

A particularly proud moment was seeing PP Dr. Jean Baptiste Habyalimana deliver the closing remarks (on 28 March 2026), representing both the club and Rotary's commitment to leadership development.

- 400,000 RWF contributed by RCKMJ
- Coordinated by Rotary Club Kigali Virunga
- Youth leadership development supported
- District-wide collaboration strengthened

Books for Future Generations

As part of the 25th Anniversary celebrations of Rotary Club Kigali Virunga, Rotary Club Kigali Mont Jali supported a campaign benefiting the Kigali Public Library.

Members collected and donated:

📚 **120 books**

promoting literacy, education, and lifelong learning.

- **120 books donated**
- **Kigali Public Library supported**
- **Literacy and learning promoted**





Kwibuka32

Remembering, Reflecting and Recommitting



On **2 May 2026,** Rotary Club Kigali Mont Jali had the honor of serving as the **coordinating club** for **Kwibuka32**, the Rotary Rwanda Family's annual commemoration of 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi. Held at Nyanza Genocide Memorial, the event brought together nearly **100 Rotarians and Rotaractors** from across Rwanda.

The club contributed **400,000 RWF** towards the successful organization of the event.

To preserve the event's message and extend its reach, Rotary Club Kigali Mont Jali also produced a short highlight video, which was widely shared within and beyond the Rotary Rwanda Family.

🎥 **Scan to Watch a Highlight video of the event**

Coordinating club for Rotary Rwanda Family

400,000 RWF contributed

Nearly 100 participants, both Rotarians, Rotaractors and friends

Highlight video produced & National visibility achieved

A Year of Service



Whether providing clean water to families, supporting children with autism, feeding vulnerable patients, empowering young leaders, promoting literacy, supporting persons living with albinism, fighting polio, or preserving collective memory, Rotary Club Kigali Mont Jali remained committed to transforming compassion into action.

Together, these initiatives demonstrate the enduring value of Rotary service and the difference that committed volunteers can make when they unite around a common purpose.







The Rotary Foundation and Membership Growth

Investing in Rotary's Future

While service projects address today's needs, investments in The Rotary Foundation, membership development, and Rotary expansion help build the future.

Throughout the 2025–2026 Rotary year, Rotary Club Kigali Mont Jali intentionally strengthened its contribution to the Rotary movement by promoting Foundation giving, recognizing member generosity, growing its membership, and supporting the expansion of the Rotary family.

These efforts produced some of the most significant achievements in the club's history and laid important foundations for future impact.



A Historic Year for The Rotary Foundation

The Rotary Foundation remains Rotary's most powerful tool for transforming generosity into sustainable impact.
Through continuous Foundation education, member engagement, and intentional promotion of Rotary giving, the club achieved its strongest Foundation performance to date.
For the first time in its history, Rotary Club Kigali Mont Jali secured:

🏅 8 New Paul Harris Fellow Recognitions

The highest number ever achieved by the club in a single Rotary year.
The recognitions secured included:

- 6 Paul Harris Fellows (PHF)
- 1 Paul Harris Fellow +1
- 1 Paul Harris Fellow +3

Beyond the recognitions themselves, this milestone reflects a growing culture of generosity and a deeper commitment to supporting Rotary's work around the world.



🏅 8 NEW PHF RECOGNITIONS SECURED

- Highest annual PHF achievement in club history
- Stronger culture of Foundation giving established

Growing Our Paul Harris Family

The club's Foundation journey can also be measured through the growth of its community of Rotary Foundation supporters.
As of June 2026, Rotary Club Kigali Mont Jali proudly counts:

- 19 Paul Harris Fellows (PHF)
- 3 PHF+1
- 2 PHF+2
- 1 PHF+3

This growing Paul Harris family represents one of the club's greatest strengths and positions Rotary Club Kigali Mont Jali favorably for future Foundation initiatives, grants, and service opportunities.

More importantly, it reflects a shared belief that lasting impact requires sustained investment.

25 MEMBERS RECOGNIZED AS PHF OR HIGHER

- Strong Foundation culture established
- Increased member engagement in Rotary giving

Exceeding Our Endowment Fund Goal



Another major milestone was achieved through contributions to Rotary's Endowment Fund.
At the beginning of the year, the club set an ambitious target of **USD 2,000** Through the generosity and commitment of members, Rotary Club Kigali Mont Jali exceeded this objective and contributed **USD 2,500**, representing **125% of the target achieved**.
This contribution helps secure Rotary's ability to create impact for generations to come and demonstrates the club's commitment to long-term sustainability.

Achieved	Target reached
USD 2,500	125%

Growing and Retaining Membership

Membership remains the foundation of every Rotary club.
Throughout the year, Rotary Club Kigali Mont Jali remained focused not only on recruiting new members but also on retaining and engaging existing ones.

The club welcomed **3 new members** during the Rotary year, strengthening its diversity, expertise, and future leadership potential.
At the same time, two members departed the club to focus on personal business commitments. Despite these transitions, the club maintained a stable and active membership base of more than 40 members.

This balance between recruitment and retention reflects the club's continued attractiveness, resilience, and commitment to sustainable growth.

New members inducted	Membership maintained
3	40+

Strong retention achieved
Continued growth and sustainability

Expanding the Rotary Family

Rotary's future depends not only on strengthening existing clubs but also on creating new opportunities for service and leadership.
Working closely with Rotaractors and community stakeholders, Rotary Club Kigali Mont Jali continued to invest in the expansion of the Rotary family in Rwanda.

Rotaract Club of Mount Kigali University

Working closely with Rotaractors and university stakeholders, Rotary Club Kigali Mont Jali made significant progress toward establishing a Rotaract Club at Mount Kigali University. By June 2026, the initiative had reached approximately 75% completion.

A key milestone was achieved with the successful securing of initial approval from the Student Services Department, allowing the proposal to advance to its final stage of review and approval by the Chancellor's Office.
This progress reflects strong collaboration between Rotarians, Rotaractors, and university leadership, and gives the club confidence that the initiative can be successfully completed during the 2026–2027 Rotary year.



Approximately 75% complete



First-level approval secured from Student Services Department



Final approval pending with Chancellor's Office

Strong collaboration between Rotarians, Rotaractors, and university leadership & High potential for launch in 2026–2027

Rotary Club of Nyagatare

The club also initiated conversations aimed at establishing a Rotary Club in Nyagatare District.
Engagement with district authorities and representatives of the Private Sector Federation laid the foundation for future development. By the end of the Rotary year, the initiative stood at approximately 25% completion.
While still in its early stages, the initiative represents an important opportunity to expand Rotary's reach and impact in Rwanda.

Rotary Club Kigali Mont Jali remains committed to supporting both initiatives and is hopeful that the progress already achieved will lead to successful implementation during the 2026–2027 Rotary year.
It is equally our hope that efforts to establish an Interact Club will gain momentum and become a reality under the incoming leadership team.



Rotary Club of Nyagatare – 25% complete



Interact Club initiative under exploration



New partnerships and stakeholders engaged

Building Rotary for Tomorrow

The achievements highlighted in this chapter demonstrate that Rotary Club Kigali Mont Jali is not only focused on today's service projects but also on strengthening the future of Rotary.

By investing in The Rotary Foundation, recognizing member generosity, growing and retaining membership, and supporting the expansion of the Rotary family, the club has laid foundations that will continue creating impact for years to come.

Together, these efforts ensure that Rotary remains strong, relevant, and ready to serve future generations.

Strong, relevant, and ready to serve future generations.



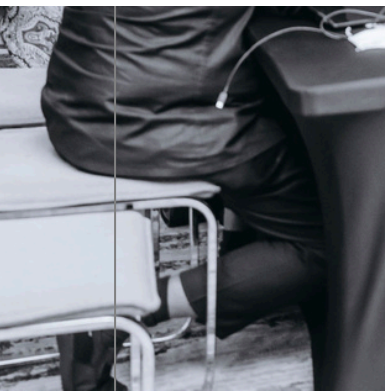












Service above self.





Visibility, Partnerships and Innovation

Strengthening Our Presence and Preserving Our Legacy

Throughout the Rotary Year 2025–2026, Rotary Club Kigali Mont Jali made a deliberate effort not only to serve communities but also to strengthen its visibility, preserve its history, and build partnerships capable of supporting future growth.

The club recognized that meaningful impact requires more than projects alone. It also requires strong relationships, effective communication, institutional memory, and a positive public image.

Several initiatives undertaken during the year have therefore created a foundation that will continue benefiting the club long after the current Rotary year concludes.

Launching Our First-Ever Club Website

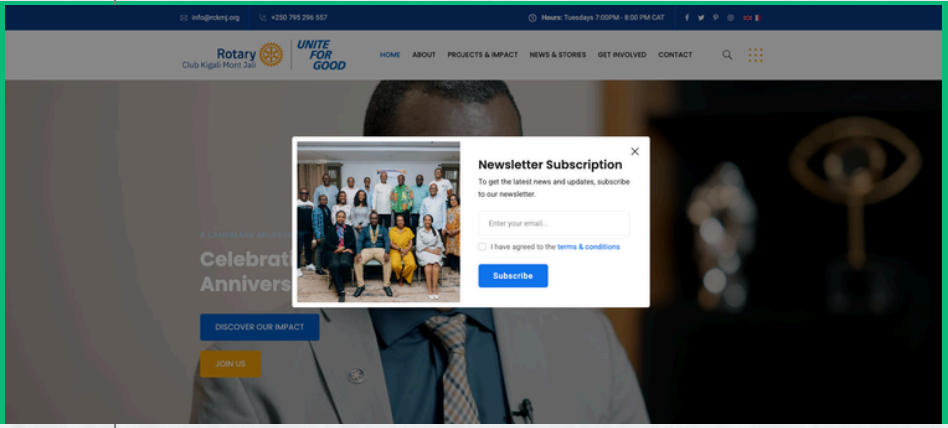
One of the most significant milestones of the year was the successful development and launch of the club's first official website.

For many years, Rotary Club Kigali Mont Jali's story lived primarily through the memories of its members and scattered records of past activities. While these memories remain valuable, the club recognized the need to create a permanent digital presence capable of preserving its history and showcasing its work to the world.

The website now serves as:

- A digital archive of club activities and achievements
- A platform for public visibility
- A tool for attracting prospective members and partners
- A space to showcase projects and impact
- A gateway for international Rotarians seeking to connect with the club

This achievement represents more than a communication tool. It is a long-term investment in the club's visibility, credibility, and sustainability.
The website stands as one of the most important legacy projects completed during the 2025–2026 Rotary year.



www.rckmj.org

- **First official club website launched**
- **Permanent digital presence established**
- **Enhanced visibility locally and internationally**
- **Stronger platform for future growth**

Telling Our Story Better

A key lesson from previous years was the importance of documentation.

Throughout the year, the club intentionally improved the way it captures and preserves its activities.

Members invested in:

- Event photography
- Event videography
- Visual storytelling
- Event infographics
- Digital archiving

Nearly every major activity organized by the club was documented through photos, videos, and communication materials.



This effort not only improved public visibility but also ensured that future club leaders will have access to a richer institutional memory.

The production of the Kwibuka32 highlight video stands out as a particularly strong example of this approach, allowing the event's message to reach audiences well beyond those physically present.

By documenting our work, we are preserving our story.

Our Social Media Presence

Reconnecting with Mövenpick Hotel Kigali



One of the most symbolic achievements of the year was the establishment of a partnership with Mövenpick Hotel Kigali.
For long-standing members, the venue holds a special place in the club's history. Before becoming Mövenpick, the hotel hosted Rotary Club Kigali Mont Jali meetings for many years and was the setting for numerous important moments in the life of the club.

Following constructive discussions with the hotel's leadership team, a partnership was secured allowing the club to resume fellowship meetings at the hotel beginning in March 2026.

Beyond providing meeting space, this partnership offers:

- Increased visibility for Rotary
- Opportunities for collaboration
- Access to a professional meeting environment
- Exposure to local and international visitors

The return to Mövenpick was therefore more than a logistical decision. It represented a reconnection with part of the club's identity while opening doors for future opportunities.

- Partnership established with Mövenpick Hotel Kigali
- Fellowship meetings hosted since March 2026
- Increased visibility among local and international visitors
- New opportunities for collaboration

Preserving Club Heritage

As Rotary Club Kigali Mont Jali approaches three decades of service, preserving institutional memory becomes increasingly important.

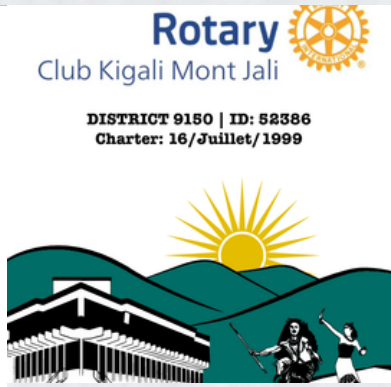
This year, the club strengthened its efforts to celebrate and preserve its heritage.
Among the most notable achievements was the acquisition of the official President's Chain.

This symbolic item bears the names of past and current club presidents, serving as a visible reminder of the leadership, dedication, and continuity that have shaped the club since its charter.

More than a ceremonial accessory, the President's Chain connects current members to the generations of Rotarians who came before them and inspires future leaders to continue building on that legacy.

Official President's Chain acquired





Club history preserved

Stronger connection between past and future leaders

Innovation in Club Management

Creating Space for Engagement and Balance

To make the best use of members' time, the club restructured its meeting model during the 2025–2026 Rotary year.

Fellowship meetings were streamlined from **four to two meetings per month**, held on the **first and third Tuesdays**, while the intervening weeks were dedicated to commission work. This approach enabled the club to hold **more than 20 fellowship meetings** throughout the year while allowing commissions to advance projects and club priorities between meetings.

The club also introduced a **Festive Holiday Break** from **14 December 2025 to 12 January 2026**, giving members time to celebrate with their families, recharge, and return energized for the second half of the Rotary year.

Together, these adjustments promoted a healthier balance between service, fellowship, and personal commitments.



- Fellowship meetings streamlined from 4 to 2 per month
- 20+ fellowship meetings successfully held
- New annual member recognition established

Recognizing Excellence Among Us

The 2025–2026 Rotary year also introduced new approaches to member engagement and recognition.

Recognizing that volunteer organizations thrive when contributions are acknowledged, the club established a new annual recognition designed to celebrate exceptional commitment and service.

The inaugural recognition was awarded to Carine Gatabazi in appreciation of her dedication and outstanding service as Club Treasurer.

This initiative represents an important cultural shift toward celebrating excellence and encouraging active participation within the club.

It also reflects the club's commitment to ensuring That outstanding service does not go unnoticed. The recognition will continue as an annual tradition in future Rotary years.

Building Rotary Connections Beyond Borders

Rotary's strength lies in its global network.
Throughout the year, members of Rotary Club Kigali Mont Jali actively engaged with Rotarians across Rwanda and around the world.

The club welcomed visiting Rotarians from:

- Kenya
- Denmark
- Finland
- Various Rotary Clubs within Rwanda

Club members also represented Rotary Club Kigali Mont Jali abroad through visits and engagements in:

- United States of America
- Mauritius
- Sweden
- Finland
- Denmark

These interactions strengthened relationships, expanded learning opportunities, and opened doors for future partnerships and potential global initiatives.
They also reinforced the reality that Rotary Club Kigali Mont Jali is part of a much larger international movement united by a shared commitment to service.






A Stronger and More Visible Club

Taken together, these achievements demonstrate that Rotary Club Kigali Mont Jali invested significantly in strengthening its identity, visibility, partnerships, and institutional memory during the 2025–2026 Rotary year.

The website, the Mövenpick partnership, improved documentation, preservation of club heritage, and stronger international engagement all contribute to a stronger and more resilient club.

These investments may not always be as visible as a community project, but they are essential foundations upon which future impact will be built.

Lessons and Reflections



Engagement requires continuous nurturing.

Learning from the Journey

Every Rotary year brings both achievements and lessons.

While 2025–2026 was a year of growth, service, and meaningful accomplishments, it also offered valuable insights that will help strengthen Rotary Club Kigali Mont Jali in the years ahead. Rather than viewing challenges as obstacles, we choose to see them as opportunities to learn, adapt, and improve.

Members contribute differently at different moments.

Sustaining Engagement Throughout the Year

One of the key lessons of the year was the importance of sustaining member engagement beyond periods of high enthusiasm and activity.

Participation remained strong during fellowship meetings, camaraderies, and major events. However, maintaining the same level of involvement in planning and implementation activities proved more challenging, particularly during the second half of the year.

This experience reminded us that Rotary thrives when every member finds meaningful ways to contribute, while recognizing that professional, family, and personal commitments naturally shape individual availability.

Shared ownership strengthens club resilience.

Lessons and Reflections



Engagement requires continuous nurturing.

Empowering Commissions to Lead

The year reaffirmed the importance of active and empowered commissions.

While significant progress was achieved, some initiatives advanced largely through individual initiative or Executive Committee intervention rather than collective commission leadership.

Future success will depend on strengthening commission ownership, accountability, and teamwork so that responsibility is shared across the club.

What We Learned

- Strong clubs depend on strong commissions.
- Ownership creates momentum.
- Leadership is most effective when it is distributed.

Strengthening a Culture of Responsibility

Like many volunteer organizations, the club occasionally experienced delays in member contributions and responses to club commitments.

While these challenges did not prevent the club from achieving its objectives, they highlighted the importance of strengthening a culture of accountability, professionalism, and shared responsibility.

Rotary works best when members honor commitments, communicate openly, and actively support collective decisions.

What We Learned

- Accountability strengthens trust.
- Financial commitment supports sustainability.
- Professionalism remains a cornerstone of Rotary service.

Balancing Fellowship and Service

One encouraging observation was the strong participation in camaraderies and home hospitality events throughout the year.

These gatherings reinforced friendships, strengthened belonging, and contributed significantly to the club's positive culture.

At the same time, the year reminded us that Rotary is strongest when fellowship and service grow together. Friendship creates the foundation; service gives purpose to that friendship.

What We Learned

- Fellowship and camaraderie attract and connect people.
- Service inspires and transforms communities.
- Both are essential to a thriving Rotary club.

Lessons for Future Leaders



Several practical lessons emerged from the year's experience:

The First Semester Matters

The first six months of the Rotary year often bring the highest levels of energy and engagement. Prioritizing major objectives during this period increases the likelihood of successful implementation.

Communication Must Be Continuous

Consistent communication proved essential in maintaining momentum, alignment, and member engagement throughout the year.

The New Meeting Structure Works

The transition from four monthly meetings to two fellowship meetings supported by commission activities proved effective in making better use of members' time while maintaining club momentum.

Rotary Is Continuity

Many achievements realized this year were built on foundations laid by previous leaders, just as several initiatives started this year will continue under future leadership teams.

Rotary's strength lies not in individual terms of office, but in its continuity of service and purpose.

Leadership Reflections

A Personal Reflection from the President

Serving as President of Rotary Club Kigali Mont Jali during the 2025–2026 Rotary year has been one of the most rewarding learning experiences of my Rotary journey.

Above all, I learned that leadership begins with service. Rotary's principle of **Service Above Self** is not merely a slogan; it requires commitment, involvement, and, at times, sacrifice. To lead effectively, one must be willing to invest time, energy, and personal resources in support of the club and its mission. Leadership cannot be exercised from a distance. A leader must remain actively involved, present when needed, and ready to step forward whenever the club requires support.

This year also reinforced the importance of continuous learning. Rotary continues to evolve, and so do its systems, opportunities, and ways of working. I intentionally invested time in learning more about Rotary, particularly through the **My Rotary** platform and the broader Rotary ecosystem. Equally valuable was the opportunity to learn from others.

Throughout the year, I benefited greatly from the guidance, experience, and wisdom of fellow Club Presidents, Assistant District Governors both ADG Suman Alla and Carole Karema Jeni, our District Governor Claude Cherubala, experienced Rotarians, and dedicated Rotaractors. Their insights helped me navigate challenges with greater understanding, determination, and confidence. They reminded me that leadership is never a solitary journey.

I also learned that understanding people is just as important as understanding plans. Every member serves Rotary while balancing professional, family, and personal responsibilities. Effective leadership therefore requires patience, empathy, adaptability, and a willingness to meet people where they are.

Finally, this year confirmed that no Rotary President completes the journey alone. Many of the achievements celebrated in this report were possible because previous leaders laid strong foundations. Likewise, several initiatives started this year will continue under future leadership teams.
That is the beauty of Rotary. We do not inherit finished work; we inherit opportunities. We build on what exists, contribute our part, and leave the club stronger for those who follow.
These are lessons I carry with gratitude, humility, and optimism for the future of Rotary Club Kigali Mont Jali.



Claver Irakoze
President 2025–2026
Rotary Club Kigali Mont Jali

Looking Ahead

Passing the Baton, Sustaining the Momentum

As Rotary Club Kigali Mont Jali concludes the 2025–2026 Rotary year, we do so with a sense of gratitude, pride, and optimism.



The achievements highlighted throughout this report demonstrate what can be accomplished when individuals unite around a shared purpose. Together, we strengthened our club, invested in our communities, supported The Rotary Foundation, expanded Rotary opportunities, and created partnerships that will continue to serve the club well into the future.

Yet Rotary teaches us that no Rotary year is ever the end of a journey.

Every achievement becomes a foundation upon which future leaders and members continue to build.

The work of Rotary is continuous. Projects evolve, partnerships deepen, new leaders emerge, and new opportunities present themselves.

The 2025–2026 Rotary year, therefore represents not a conclusion, but an important chapter in a much longer story.



Foundations for the Future

The club enters the next Rotary year with several strong foundations already in place.

These include:

A Stronger Foundation Culture

The club's historic achievement of securing eight new Paul Harris Fellow recognitions and surpassing its Endowment Fund target demonstrates a growing commitment to The Rotary Foundation.
This culture of giving creates opportunities for even greater impact in the years ahead.

Enhanced Visibility

The launch of the club's first-ever website and improved documentation practices provide Rotary Club Kigali Mont Jali with a stronger public presence and a permanent platform through which its story can be shared with the world.

Strategic Partnerships

The partnership established with Mövenpick Hotel Kigali, together with relationships strengthened throughout the year, creates opportunities for future collaboration and growth.

Future Rotary Growth

The ongoing efforts to establish a Rotaract Club at Mount Kigali University, a Rotary Club in Nyagatare and Interact clubs provide exciting opportunities to expand Rotary's reach and influence.

Strong Leadership Continuity

With the election of President-Elect Rosine Uwamariya and President-Nominee Aimable Bayingana, the club is well-positioned to continue building upon the momentum created during the current Rotary year.





Opportunities For 2026–2027

As one Rotary year concludes and another begins, several opportunities emerge for continued growth and impact.
These include:

- Consolidating the culture of Foundation giving.
- Completing the establishment of the Rotaract Club of Mount Kigali University.
- Advancing discussions toward the creation of Rotary Club Nyagatare and Interact clubs.
- Expanding strategic partnerships.
- Increasing member participation across commissions and projects.
- Strengthening financial sustainability through timely member contributions.
- Leveraging the club website as a visibility, recruitment, and communication tool.
- Continuing impactful service projects that respond to community needs.

These opportunities provide a strong starting point for the incoming leadership team and for the club as a whole.

Welcoming a New Rotary Year

On 1 July 2026, Rotary Club Kigali Mont Jali will welcome a new chapter under the leadership of President Rosine Uwamariya and Rotary International's theme:
"Create Lasting Impact"
This theme resonates strongly with the journey undertaken during the 2025–2026 Rotary year under the theme “Unite for Good”.

The projects completed, partnerships established, systems strengthened, and relationships built throughout the year were all intended to create impact that extends beyond a single Rotary term.
As the club transitions into the new year, it does so with confidence, knowing that the foundations laid today will support the achievements of tomorrow.

Acknowledgements



To all who contributed in ways large and small, thank you.

The successes of the 2025–2026 Rotary year were made possible through the collective efforts of many individuals and partners.

The club extends its sincere appreciation to:

Club Members

For their commitment, support, generosity, participation, friendship, and dedication to Rotary's ideals.

Club Leadership Team

For their collaboration and willingness to serve throughout the year.

Commission Chairs and Committee Members

For supporting the implementation of the club's action plan and contributing to the achievement of its objectives.

The Rotary Rwanda Family

For the spirit of collaboration, solidarity, and fellowship that continues to strengthen Rotary across Rwanda.

District Leadership

Particularly District Governor Claude Cherubala, and Assistant District Governors Suman Alla and Carole Karema Jeni for their support, guidance, and encouragement throughout the year.

Partners and Friends of Rotary

Including Mövenpick Hotel Kigali, Lemigo Hotel, IHS Rwanda, Solid Africa, KIPHARMA, Autism Rwanda, OIPPA, Rotary and Rotaract Clubs, and all individuals and organizations who supported the club's activities and projects.

Final Reflection

The Rotary Year 2025–2026 will be remembered as a year of growth, service, innovation, and renewed momentum for Rotary Club Kigali Mont Jali.

Together, we strengthened our fellowship.

Together, we invested in our communities.

Together, we supported The Rotary Foundation.

Together, we expanded Rotary's reach and visibility.

Together, we prepared the next generation of leaders.

Most importantly, together we demonstrated that when people unite around a common purpose, meaningful change becomes possible.

As we hand over the baton to a new leadership team, we do so with confidence, gratitude, and hope.



And the journey continues...

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