



John de Giorgio
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“Education needs to be a continuous process”

The month of August is well known for the break from our daily lives. A period during which we spend more time with our family and our friends. A time when we go on holiday to the sea or the country. A time in which attention to our Rotarian work is probably a bit weaker. However for many people in our society, their daily struggles continue.

I had the opportunity a few days ago to spend a day at the 37th Handicamp organised by the Rotary Club of Castelvetro together with their Rotaract and Interact Club. It was truly a moving experience. Very emotional and satisfying seeing our volunteers at work.

It is an occasion in which people who are less able than us spend a period of vacation away from their own homes, changing their environment and meeting friends. You could see the joy in the guests' eyes and, probably even more so, in that of the volunteers: Rotarians, Rotaractors and Interactors the youngest of which was 14 years old.

One of the things that struck me most was the number of Rotarian volunteers who told me that they had started their Rotarian journey as Interact volunteers on the Handicamp and they return one year after the next.

Within our District of course there were many other Clubs that continued to provide service to their communities even during the heat of the summer. It is true that the strongest Rotary Clubs, with Rotaract and Interact Clubs that are working well, are those Clubs that are most involved with providing service.

For other Clubs, after the summer break, will start the true work of the Club. For the Presidents, each month counts and the opportunity to make a difference passes quickly.

September, immediately prior to the reopening of the schools, is dedicated in Rotary to education and literacy. Often we think of our youngsters in school or University when we speak of education but in fact education needs to be a continuous process. At home, at work. Everywhere. We need to train our work colleagues, our unemployed, those who are disadvantaged in our society, the migrants and many others. We also need to continuously train ourselves to be ever more up to date. Let us think a bit about how we can make a difference even in this aspect.

The Rotary seminar on membership and leadership is being held on Saturday the 7th October at the Federico II in Enna. In my opinion, the correlation between service and strong membership in a Club is very strong. The strongest Clubs are those in which the members are involved in service projects using their hands rather than their wallets. I hope many of you will attend this important training event.



The Governor's visits to the Clubs start again on the 8 September. During the first twenty-six visits held in July I was particularly happy to visit Club projects. Not just new projects but also projects from previous years. I would like to further encourage the Clubs to show me their projects during my visit.

Do not forget that the end of September is the deadline for applications for Global Grants, both for projects and, this year, also for the scholarship programme. Instead of predetermining the budget from available funds dedicated to projects and to scholarships from the Global Grants funds, I felt that this year there should be a competition for the best use of funds.

Let's work together to make a difference.

John