



Growing Local Economies

October is Rotary's [Community & Economic Development Month](#) and an impact area our club will be considering locally, nationally, and internationally.

Rotary Clubs around the globe focus on sustainable community development, aiming to provide long-term improvements alongside immediate aid. The Rotary Foundation empowers Rotarians to make a meaningful impact by investing in people and fostering economic growth in underserved areas.

At its core, Community and Economic Development means supporting the creation of sustainable businesses locally and creating or enhancing sustainable jobs that go with those businesses. Some of the goals of this type of investment include:

- Building the capacity of entrepreneurs, community leaders, local organizations, and community networks to support economic development in impoverished communities;
- Developing opportunities for productive work;
- Reducing poverty in under-served communities; and
- Supporting studies for career-minded professionals related to economic and community development.

The brilliant insight of Paul Harris, Rotary's founder, was that you could bring a broad range of business and professional people together to help each other and use the very same group to help their communities. In that vein, The Rotary Club of Portsmouth includes a collaborative network of professionals able to leverage their vocational expertise to foster economic development and community benefit.

Worldwide, nearly 1.4 billion employed people live on less than \$1.25 a day. Promoting economic and community development reduces poverty in underserved communities through training, well-paying jobs, and access to financial management institutions. Rotary projects range from providing people with equipment, vocational training and professional development, establishing mentorship programs with support and resources for business owners, and nurturing enterprise incubation through ideation and microfinance initiatives.

The Rotary Club of Portsmouth exemplifies this mission, bringing together members with diverse professional expertise to foster economic growth and support their community's development needs. This month in particular we will learn about economic development efforts in Portsmouth, with a speaker from bloom CoWorking and bloom Market; on the regional level, with a speaking program featuring Diverse Hampton Roads; and internationally when we welcome Partners in Development.

You can learn more about this month's speaking programs by visiting our [eventbrite page](#).