

## What It's All About —By Carol Metzker



In developing communities of west African Ghana, barefoot villagers play soccer on hardened dirt with stray blades of grass and patches of gravel. Spectators watch from a few plastic chairs; a woman sells handfuls of peanuts in packages that she carries on a tray on her head. There's no fancy turf, no stadium and no abundance of hot dogs and cold beer.

In tiny hamlets in India, villagers striving for education and freedom conduct meetings while sitting on mats on the ground in the shade of trees—not around conference room tables in climate-controlled skyscrapers with thick carpet and pretty staircases. Toilets are holes in the ground with unpotable water, not cavernous rooms with marble counters displaying perfumed towels.

We come together as Rotarians to develop communities, to enable education and freedom, and to help improve sanitation and water quality. When we gather, it's not about having the best seat in a stadium or because our team is guaranteed to win (although, how about those Phils on Rotary Night to Strike Out Polio in July?!). It's not about demanding that our bountiful food is perfect or that the setting is the most luxurious.

Being a Rotarian—and joining others at Rotary events—is about appreciating our freedom, prosperity and great good fortune... and using it to sustain fellow Rotarians and to elevate community members locally and globally who need food, education, better health and freedom. As we dig into projects and programs during this new Rotary year, let's take a moment to celebrate our great good fortune and to remember that the betterment of someone else is really

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