

Whispering cinema for visually-impaired

Team Rotary News



RID 3142 DG Dinesh Mehta (5th from left) with Rotarians at the movie theatre during *Project Whispering Cinema*.

t was an experience that over 160 visually-impaired children will never forget, and look forward to in the coming years, as they 'watched' a feature film, Jigra, with volunteers translating the scenes through whispers in their ears. The third edition of Project Whispering Cinema hosted by RC Navi Mumbai Sunrise, RID 3142, was held at the Balaji Movieplex, Kopar Khairane.

The visually-impaired students were from the National Institute of Blind, Worli; ETC, Navi Mumbai; Rainbow Foundation, Badlapur; Sohayagini Palak Sanstha, Kopar Khairane; and the Helen Keller Institute. For most of the students, this was their first-ever cinema experience. Yogita K, a staff at the Helen Keller Institute in her Thank You note said, "we are grateful for the exceptional opportunity given to our deaf-blind students to experience the movie. They had an incredible time, and it was a valuable experience



Visually-impaired students watching the feature film.

for them. We extend our heartfelt thanks on behalf of the HKI team."

DG Dinesh Mehta, PDG Kailash Jethani, DGE Harsh Makol and DGND Chandrahas Setty were present at the movie hall. A surprise visitor was Ajay, a member of music composition team of the film, who added a layer of excitement for the audience. As the theatre was

filled with students, Rotarians and supporters, the positive feedback from the beneficiaries motivated the club members to continue with such initiatives for the differently-abled children.

For more details, click on https://rotarynewsonline.org/a-cinema-treat-for-the-blind-in-mumbai/.

On the cover: Members of RC Cuddalore Coastal City, RID 2981, help children choose their new clothes for Diwali.

Fire safety lessons for children

Team Rotary News



Children with members of RC Karambakudi City and the fire services personnel at the school. Club president V Ramesh is seen at the centre.

otary Club of Karambakudi City, RID 3000, along with the Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Services, organised a programme at a government school a week before Diwali to educate children about fire accidents and how to burst crackers safely. The session taught the children the dos and don'ts in case of a fire accident and how to safely handle cooking gas cylinder.

At the end of the session the Rotarians distributed crackers and sweets to the children.

Other initiatives of the club include gifting books to the city library and cleaning a temple pond which is now brimming with water after the copious rain in the region. Saplings were planted in the government school and the Rotarians sensitised the students about nurturing the plants and keeping their surroundings clean.



Club members donating books to the library.



At the temple pond after it was cleaned by the club.

World Polio Day events across India

Team Rotary News





Above: Members of RC Nizamabad at the awareness walk.

Right: Rotarians from Pudukkottai at the polio awareness event.

In celebration of World Polio Day, Rotary clubs across India hosted events to raise awareness on polio prevention and the importance of immunisation.

In Dwarka, New Delhi (RID 3011), Rotary clubs organised a human formation spelling out Polio-Free Bharat and a 1.5km-rally with music and street performances, joined by WHO officials, Rotary members and students. Deepak Kapur, chair of Rotary International's India National PolioPlus Committee, stressed the need for continued vigilance and immunisation efforts, with only Pakistan and Afghanistan still reporting polio cases. RIDE KP Nagesh and DG Mahesh Trikha underscored the critical role of ongoing advocacy and youth involvement initiatives.

Rotary clubs in Pudukkottai, RID 3000, marked the day with a polio awareness balloon-flying event, with presidents from seven clubs









Students with their artwork on polio awareness.

emphasising Rotary's role in keeping India polio-free.

In Andhra Pradesh, RC Singarakonda, RID 3150, organised a rally and drawing competition in Addanki, engaging high school students to spread polio awareness through art, with prizes awarded for





Above: A human formation spelling 'Polio-Free Bharat'.

Left: Rotarians from RID 3040 participating in the End Polio Now awareness campaign and rally in Indore.

their efforts. RC Nizamabad also held a polio awareness walk.

RID 3250 held a public image and End Polio seminar in Muzaffarpur with PDG Dr Pramod Kumar and ARPIC PDG Pratim Banerjee addressing 250 delegates on brand promotion and advocacy. Nineteen members donated \$100 each for the Polio Fund.

RID 3040 clubs in Indore launched an End Polio Now rally,

led by DG Anish Malik and PolioPlus chair PDG Ramesh Tiwari with participation from district leaders and Rotarians.

In Pogiri, Rajam Mandalam (Andhra), RC Srikakulam, RID 3020, organised an essay competition and a human chain display, spelling out End Polio Now to highlight the significance of eradication efforts.

Promoting blood and organ donation

Team Rotary News



Schoolchildren in a rally to promote blood and organ donation.

Rotary Club of Muzaffarnagar Mid Town, RID 3100, organised a blood and organ donation rally which had a participation of Rotarians from other Rotary clubs in the city and students. DG Deepa Khanna and DGE Nitin Agarwal participated in the event.

The rally was followed by a seminar to educate the public where

Dr Mahavir Singh Faujdar, CMO of Muzaffarnagar, and officials from the Alaknanda Blood Bank shared useful information about organ and blood donation.

Preparing students for competitive exams

Rotary Club of Kolhapur Mid Town, RID 3170, initiated a project to coach rural students for competitive examinations for professional courses and other vocational streams. Inspire Academy is the knowledge partner.

Twenty students from each of the Classes 8–10 are selected from various schools and trained through online classes for the examination. Study material are prepared and distributed to them. Mock tests are conducted every Sunday across various centres and motivational talks are delivered to the students at various schools.



Members of RC Kolhapur Mid Town engage students in a motivational talk.

Finally top 20 students from Class 10 are identified for further training. They will be mentored to successfully clear the exams. Over 1,600 students are being trained under this project, said club secretary B S Shimpukade.

Club members with children at the textile shop.





Students attending an anti-drug abuse seminar organised by the club.

New dresses for Diwali

Team Rotary News

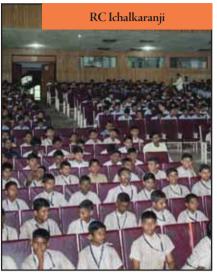
Rotary Club of Cuddalore Coastal City, RID 2981, brought cheer to 40 children when the club members took them to a leading textile shop in the town and bought them all new clothes to celebrate Diwali. "These children, from a neighbouring village, are either orphans or have a single parent. They were all so excited when we announced that we were taking them dress shopping, but then we were also surprised to find them well-behaved at the shop," said club secretary S Sivagurunathan.

The children were identified and escorted to the shop in Cuddalore by Rotaractors where they were encouraged to choose their dresses. The act saw a ripple effect when the shop owner, enthused by the joy in the children's faces, took them to a footwear shop where they chose their footwear. A sumptuous lunch was served to the children before they were taken back to their homes. "This was the most satisfying Diwali for all of us," he said.

Around 2,000 college students attended a campaign against drugs organised by the club, along with other Rotary clubs in the town and the police department, at the Anna Stadium. De-addiction experts and motivational speakers addressed the young audience about the effects of substance abuse on physical and mental health, and also touched upon mobile phone addiction. Superintendent of police Rajaram presided over the event. District collector Sibi Adithya Senthilkumar, corporation commissioner Dr S Anu and Neyveli additional superintendent of police Sabiyullah were also present. ■

club matters







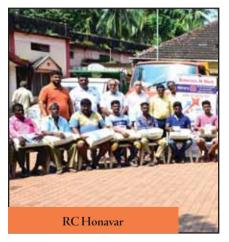


RC Chidambaram Central - RID 2981

World Polio Day was observed at the Government Nandanar Girls HS School with assistant headmaster M Prathap, teachers association secretary KA Sampathkumar and social welfare officer M Kanimozhi giving speeches. A rally was staged and saplings were planted by girls.

RC Belgaum Midtown — RID 3170

During *Pitru Paksha*, a 16-day lunar period in the Hindu calendar when Hindus pay homage with rituals to their ancestors, club members donated groceries worth ₹15,000 to Shantai Vrudhashram, an old age home in Belagavi.



RC Honavar — RID 3170

New clothes and sweets were distributed to 29 municipal conservancy workers at an event. Rtn Suryakanth Sarang talked about the vital role of the workers in keeping the town clean.

RC Ichalkaranji — RID 3170

Around 1,750 students attended two sessions on 'Youth: Physical and Mental Health' with Dr Anil Madake and Dr Pallavi Anuje interacting with the participants on issues like good health, eating habits, adolescent woes, drug addiction and social media.

RC Kolhapur Heritage — RID 3170

E-learning equipment including two computers with UPS printers, mike and speaker, projector screen, LED TV, all worth ₹1 lakh, were donated to the Nutan Marathi High School to enhance the digital learning experience of students.









RC Margao Midtown — RID 3170

A doctor who donated his kidney to his recipient sister suffering from an acute disease were both felicitated at an event to mark World Organ Donation Day. Dr Medha Salkar and Dr Shekhar Salkar honoured the both the donor and recipient.



RC Damoh Greater — RID 3261

Wheels of traffic barricades and stoppers were repaired and Rotary stickers were stuck on them to boost public image. A register book and pens were donated to students of a government middle school at Richhkudi village.

RC Anchal - RID 3211

Local MLA PS Supal handed over the renovated house of an old couple, Manoharan Nair and Lalithamma who lost their son in a cylinder blast at their home. The club renovated the damaged house at a cost of ₹2.45 lakh.

RC Jamshedpur Green — RID 3250

Ganesh Chaturthi was celebrated with the transgender community who were greeted by club president Ananna Dutta, members Ekata Agrawal, Neelam Agrawal, Souvik Saha and Kusum Thakur. Sarees were gifted to transgenders.

RC Bhubaneswar Meadows — RID 3262

Mobile phones and weighing machines were donated to 13 visually-impaired persons at the Capital Hospital. Society Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities director Niyati Pattnaik was the chief guest at the event.

Compiled by V Muthukumaran



RC Kalyan City president Hycenth Bhetasiwala (3rd from left) at a Project Positive Health camp.

Impactful projects in Kalyan

V Muthukumaran

ore than 80 patients were screened, had undergone medical tests, and received consultations at the *Project Positive Health* camp conducted by RC Kalyan City, RID 3142, at the Lourdes and St Jude's Community Centre.

As part of Ek chumaach kum, chaar kadam age, a district-wide healthcare campaign, a panel of doctors led by Dr Samadhan Chakor from SRV Mamata Hospital screened the patients for blood sugar, BP, body mass index and other health parameters.

They also gave consultations to patients after check-up. The second phase of *Project Paatradaan* (donating utensils) was done at the Navjeevan Centre where the less privileged children were given food plates to have their meals with dignity. Club secretary Nikhil Parmar had sponsored the project which was supported by all the club members.

A workshop on 'Innovative Thinking' was held for 20 students from the Interact Club of Narendra English School at the Nehru Science Centre, Mumbai. The event, coordinated by Interact advisor Kashyap Raja and led by project chair Rupesh Gaikwad, offered students an opportunity to explore the world of science through hands-on experiments.

The participants were engaged in numerous activities like learning problem-solving skills and fostering innovative thinking. The workshop was held in partnership with the Nehru Science Centre and Marathi Vidnyan Parishad. Educational app coupons were given to students at Muhammadiya English School



Club members at *Project Paatradaan* at the Navjeevan Centre.

which will enable them to access a suite of interactive modules that were designed to simplify the learning concepts and make it enjoyable for those appearing for Class 10 board exams.

A 'good touch vs bad touch' seminar was conducted by trainer Geeta Dave for the students of Muhammadiya English School. It enabled them to recognise the inappropriate physical contact and respond suitably. The seminar addressed the growing concerns over rising harassment cases, particularly involving girls, who were taught about personal safety and the need to take precautions.

3-in-1 event

In a three-in-one programme, Nation Builder Awards were given to 31 teachers, 63 top-ranking students from various schools were felicitated, and four new members were inducted by the club at the Kalyan Mahila Mandal Hall. DG Dinesh Mehta shared



Food being served to children under *Project Annapoorna*.



Interactors at an Innovative Thinking workshop at the Nehru Science Centre.

interesting anecdotes that highlighted the critical role of teachers in shaping the future of the nation.

Four new members were inducted in a simple ceremony led by membership chair Kashyap Raja and its development coordinator Madan Shanklesha. Club president Hycenth Bhetasiwala detailed the projects being done across the focus areas, and assured the

gathering that the focus would continue to be on youth, schools and teachers for the betterment of the communities.

More than 200 participants including teachers, students, Rotarians and other dignitaries made the event a success, lifting the public image of the club in the neighbourhood. In a heartfelt gesture, food was distributed to 150 ragpickers and their children under *Project* Annapoorna with sponsorship from Rtns Sushma Patel and Ramchandra Mandhane.

Hindi Diwas

A range of competitions in oratory, poetry, poster-making, handwriting, singing and drama was conducted for students at the National Urdu High School and Junior College. Top performers were given prizes for their efforts in promoting the Hindi language.

Project chair Abdullah
Khan took care of logistics and
coordinated for the success of the
day-long events. Teachers spoke
on the importance of Hindi as
national language that signifies the
Bharatiya culture. Club president
Hycenth and secretary Nikhil
Parmar wished the students a
bright career in their lives.

Past president Yakub
Bhetasiwala shared insightful
stories about Hindi's role in
the freedom movement, and
gave a peek into some of the
awe-inspiring stories of novelist
Munshi Premchand.

RID 3262 promotes Rotary's public image

Team Rotary News

wenty Rotary
Peace Poles
were installed by
Rotary clubs of RID 3262
in various places across
the district to highlight
Rotary's peace-building
endeavours.

RC Berhampur installed Rotary Wheel in the city's vantage spot in the presence of DG Yagyansis Mohapatra. RC Bhubaneswar felicitated war veterans in the presence of the DG.



DG Yagyansis Mohapatra (2nd from R) honouring war veterans at an event organised by RC Bhubaneswar.





Raising awareness on cervical cancer

Team Rotary News

otary Bangalore
Vidyaranyapura, RID 3192,
kickstarted a mega cervical
cancer vaccination programme in
October to reach out to 10,000 adolescent girls in the age group 9–14,
studying in government schools
across Bengaluru, Mandya, Tumkur
and Chikkaballapur.

"We are not stopping with just vaccination. We want to educate



Members of RC Bangalore Vidyaranyapura give a cervical cancer vaccination certificate to a beneficiary.

people about the significance of this vaccine. The district has designed various strategies to address stigma linked with the cancer," said D N Srinath, district director, Disease Prevention Committee. Educational campaign will talk to students about HPV, its risks and the benefits of vaccination. The clubs will engage local

leaders and influencers to endorse the programme; work in tandem with local healthcare providers and leverage media outlets to disseminate accurate information and success stories about the vaccines.

The district will be collaborating with the Serum Institute for the project. ■

Music contest for a cause



Members of RC Nanganallu Elite with DG N S Saravanan, PDG J Sridhar and music contest participants.

otary Club of Nangallur Elite, RID 3234, has been organising the Elite Singer of Tamil Nadu, a music talent search programme for the third year in a row. The objective of this event is to raise funds for the club's various service projects. This year the funds were planned for the construction of a geriatric ward at the Hindu Mis-

sion Hospital in Nanganallur, a suburb of Chennai.

An entry fee of ₹500 is collected from the participants. The event drew 225 participants this year, said club president Sathish Rajasekhar. The competition is open to three age group categories — 7–15, 16–30, and above 31, — and is spread across three months with elimination rounds at every stage.

The quarterfinals round was inaugurated by DGN Suresh Jain and the finals by DGE Vinod Saraogi. Cash awards were distributed by DG NS Saravanan and PDG J Sridhar.

The club received support from corporates such as Batliboi Renewable Energy Solutions, Go Colors, PDG Abirami Ramanathan and Kesar Gifts for various sponsorships. ■

Rotarians revive a village pond

Team Rotary News

Rotary Clubs of Karur Wings and Karur Young Gen, RID 3000, restored a pond spread across seven acres at the Pambaramuthampatti village in Karur at a cost of ₹1.6 lakh. The water body was dredged with the help of an earthmover, weeds were

uprooted, and its banks were strengthened.

As it is monsoon season, the pond is brimming with water now. The villagers have promised to maintain it in the days to come, said club secretary Vishnuvardhan Rayindrakumar.



Karur Rotarians with DG Raja Govindasamy and his spouse Asha Devi on the banks of the rejuvenated pond.

Gift of books

Rotary Club of Delhi Safdarjung, RID 3011, provided 300 children's storybooks to the Raisena Bengali School, and the NGOs HCRA in Kalkaji, Udyam and Anmol Sahara in the city.

To entice children to read books and inculcate reading habit in them, the Rotarians created a 'hanging library' where they hung the books in the classrooms for children to have direct access to the books. Notebooks were also distributed to the children at the four centres.



Children enjoying a book reading session at the 'hanging library' created by RC Delhi Safdarjung.

A milestone at Rotary Skin Bank

Team Rotary News

G Raja Govindasamy was the chief guest at a special event to mark the over 50 donor skin harvests at the Devi Crop Sciences Rotary Community Skin Bank, jointly sponsored by RCs Madurai Metropolis, RID 3000, and Canela Inspiracao, RID 4670, Brazil.

Addressing the gathering at the Grace Kennett Hospital, from where the skin bank functions over the last three years, he said, "Rotary as an organisation is helping communities through healthcare and educational projects, and also taking efforts to improve the environment."

He appreciated the club and the hospital's Foundation for coming together to set up the skin bank which is being put to good, effective use helping the burn victims in and around Madurai. Grace Kennett Foundation CEO Dr Augustus Dodd explained the process of skin donation and was all praise for Rotary



DG Raja Govindasamy speaks at an event to celebrate over 50 donor skin harvests at the Rotary Skin Bank at the Grace Kennett Hospital, Madurai. RC Madurai Metropolis president S Pandithurai and PDG R Theenachandran are also seen.

in setting up the skin bank at his hospital. PDG R Theenachandran recalled the various global grants projects of Rotary in Madurai that reached out to the communities.

Skin is harvested from deceased persons to help those with burn injuries and critical victims of accidents,

and harvesting the skin is crucial for surgical patients and those suffering from chronic skin disorders. Skin is usually harvested in a sterile environment within six hours after death, and the process involves removing layers of skin from areas that will not affect the donor's appearance, such as the back or thighs.

Despite its benefits, skin donation faces challenges, including lack of awareness, misconceptions about the donation process, and cultural or religious barriers. The harvested skin is preserved through cold storage at the skin bank for up to five years. Education and advocacy are taken up by the club to dispel myths over skin donation. Dr Mohammad Imran Khan, plastic surgeon, gave a presentation on the work being done at the hospital in treating burn victims and other patients.

Club president S Pandithurai, secretary UT Vassan, Rotarians and the medical fraternity at the Grace Kennett Hospital were present at the event.



PDG Theenachandran recalls the global grant projects that were done in and around Madurai.

A cervical cancer awareness drive

Team Rotary News



Students attending an awareness session.

R C Kankaria (Ahmedabad), RID 3055, conducted a cervical cancer awareness and vaccination drive in partnership with the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation.

The camp, which provided 600 vaccine doses to schoolgirls, was organised to raise awareness about cervical cancer prevention and to promote vaccination as a key measure to reduce the risk of this disease. "Cervical cancer is one of the leading cancers affecting women in India, and early vaccination can help prevent it. This initiative aims to educate the community and protect young girls from future health risks associated with the disease," said Nipun Patel, the club president.

A treat for visually-impaired children

RID 3100, provided free meals and a grant of ₹11,000 to support 50 visually-impaired children at Brijmohan Blind School, Meerut.

The initiative received financial support from Madhuri and Adhik Kumar Garg, son and daughter-in-law of club member Avneesh Garg. Contributions were also made by club members Sahansarpal Singh, PDG MS Jain, charter president Shamsher Singh, club president Reeta Gupta, and other members of the club.



Visually-impaired children enjoying the meal.



Welfare projects of RC Navsari

Team Rotary News

R C Navsari, RID 3060, carried out multiple service projects focusing on community welfare, education and healthcare.

The club organised an indoor games tournament featuring chess and carrom, drawing over 200 participants from Navsari. Certificates, cash prizes and medals were awarded to the winners.

In Endhal village, a blood donation camp collected 72 units of blood.

On Teachers' Day, the club honoured eight government primary school teachers with Nation Builder Awards.

In response to recent flooding, 500 relief kits were distributed to affected communities in Vijalpore, Shantadevi Road, Tavdi





Above: A chess tournament in progress.

Right: A flood victim receiving the relief kit.





Above: The adult literacy class

Left: Teachers being honoured with the Nation Builder Awards.

village, Vesma, Vejalpore and Jamalpore near Navsari.

The club also launched a three-month adult literacy class under the Rotary India Literacy Mission at Swami Vivekanand School in Jodiavad with ten women enrolling for basic education. A clean drinking water facility was installed for 60 students at the Samodaya Faliya Primary School, Navsari.



Villagers at the eye testing and surgery camp hosted by RC Tirupattur.

Eye testing camp in Tirupattur

Team Rotary News

A round 500 people had benefitted from an eye testing and surgery camp held at Sri Vivekananda Matric HS School, Pallavalli, at Vaniyambadi taluk in Tamil Nadu. The eyecare camp was conducted by RC Tirupattur, RID 3231, with the support of the District Blindness Control Society and the Good Samaritan Eye Hospital, Matrapalli. Panchayat president

Selvambal inaugurated the medical camp in which Dr Vinodhini examined the patients and shortlisted those in need of surgery.

Around 90 Rotarians attended a speaker meet in which M Muthukumaran, a trainer at Vazhum Kalai, gave a talk on healthy living. He gave useful suggestions and tips on leading a disease-free, happy life with some changes in

daily routine and eating habits. In a similar event, Rtns G Mohan Gandhi and Kaninilam Munusamy from the club gave a historical account of Tirupattur at the Ramakrishna HS School. Over 90 Rotarians took part in the lecture event. Dictionaries were given to over 300 students of five government schools, hailing from underprivileged families, by DB Devarajan, a club member.

Computer lab installed at school



RC Bombay Hanging Garden president Jayen Mehta (2nd from right), along with students and club members.

A computer lab was installed at the Sou NY Dode Vidyalaya and Junior College, Mulund East, by RC Bombay Hanging Garden, RID 3141.

Club president Jayen
Mehta and secretary Deepak
Zaveri motivated the students
to make the best use of the
computer centre to enhance their
knowledge. The faculty thanked
the Rotarians for the computer
lab as it would enhance the
learning ability of students
who could now use it to widen
their knowledge across various
academic domains.

Sensitising children to preserve nature

Team Rotary News

wildlife photography exhibition was conducted by RC Gokak, RID 3170, in association with the Forest Department.

The event aimed to sensitise schoolchildren about preserving nature and understanding its fragility. Students from the surrounding schools visited the exhibition and had the opportunity to engage in discussion about wildlife with the forest department staff. Earlier during the day, the club had organised a marathon for students to highlight the message. The district forest officer Shivanand Naikwadi, Gokak tahsildar Mohan Basme and assistant commissioner of forests Washmiraj Tenagi visited the exhibition.

In another initiative, the club organised a health checkup camp for senior citizens. Vitals such as blood pressure, cholesterol, blood sugar and ECG were checked. Medicines and vitamin supplements were provided.

The club gifted green boards and furniture to a government school in the Kanasageri village near Gokak, Belagavi district, Karnataka.



Green board being inaugurated in a classroom.





Rotary contests for children

Team Rotary News

Speech, poetry recital and Bharatanatyam competitions were held for schoolchildren jointly by RCs Madurai Sangamam and Madurai South in partnership with the Gandhi Memorial Museum to mark Gandhi Jayanthi on October 2.

The competitions brought out the latent skills of children to the public domain, and all the participants were given notebooks and books, said KV Bhaskaran, secretary, RC Madurai Sangamam. The winning students were given prizes by AG RMA Rajesh Kanna and club president SR Ganesan. A sumptuous lunch was provided for children.

All the Rotary clubs in



Children are being given books by Rotarians.

Madurai came together to conduct a mega blood donation camp at the Padmalaya Medical Centre in Jaihindpuram.

DG Raja Govindasamy was the chief guest, while Rajesh Kanna was the project chair. More than 70 Rotarians donated blood.

Toys donated to a children's facility



Rotarians at the Masonic Medical Centre.

In a thoughtful gesture, toys and a cupboard to store them were gifted to the newly set-up special children's facility at the Masonic Medical Centre by RC Coimbatore Millenium, RID 3201.

This project will enhance the learning and play environment for special children, and the facility can accommodate 100 of them, that is, in four batches of 25 each, in a day. In another initiative, tables and chairs worth ₹40,000 were donated for a smart classroom at the Government Primary School, Chinna Thadagam. This initiative would benefit 106 students, thanks to sponsorship from past president Yuvaraj. Both the projects lifted the public image of the club in the neighbourhoods. ■