

Executive Director Sarah Kelly



This past year, I have seen dedication, compassion, and resilience in serving our communities. Community work demands time, patience, and, above all, heart. Every day, I see that spirit in what you do. You're not just volunteering—you're creating a foundation of hope and support for those around you. You are creating community.

Recall the lives you've touched: the single mother able to put food on the table, the elderly man who found new friendships at your events. The overwhelming support for those impacted by Hurricane Helene. These stories aren't just feel-good anecdotes; they're proof of our lasting impact. Helen Keller once said, "Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much." We are proof of that. Together, we are more than a group of individuals—we're a team, a family, and a powerful force for change.

Yet, while we are a community dedicated to service, we sometimes find ourselves divided. I have seen clubs, districts, and even the National Board struggle with disagreements and competitiveness, with some individuals seeking personal recognition over collective success. This behavior is detrimental and eats away at the heart of our organization. Our forefathers would be heartbroken by this divisiveness, and we must turn this around.

I write this article on the day after the presidential election, when many of us now hope for healing and unity in our nation. Instead of being consumed by our differences, let's focus on the fact that we're all sisters and brothers with a common goal—to create thriving, connected communities. Instead of tearing each other down, let's lift each other through fellowship and goodwill. Let's be intentional about spreading respect, love, and compassion for one another. Together, we can lead the charge in building strong, cohesive communities.

Let's make our organization a model of unity and service in our efforts. Let's be the ones who take up the extra weight, who choose fellowship over division, and who see every act of kindness as a brick in the foundation of a healthier, stronger community.

As we move forward, let's remember Winston Churchill's words: "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." Every act of service we give is a part of ourselves that we share with the world, making it a little brighter, a little kinder.

Thank you for being the heart and soul of this organization. Let's move into this new year with unity, resilience, and a shared mission. Together, I believe we can make incredible things happen.