HAWASSA KITE MAKING & FESTIVAL REPORT



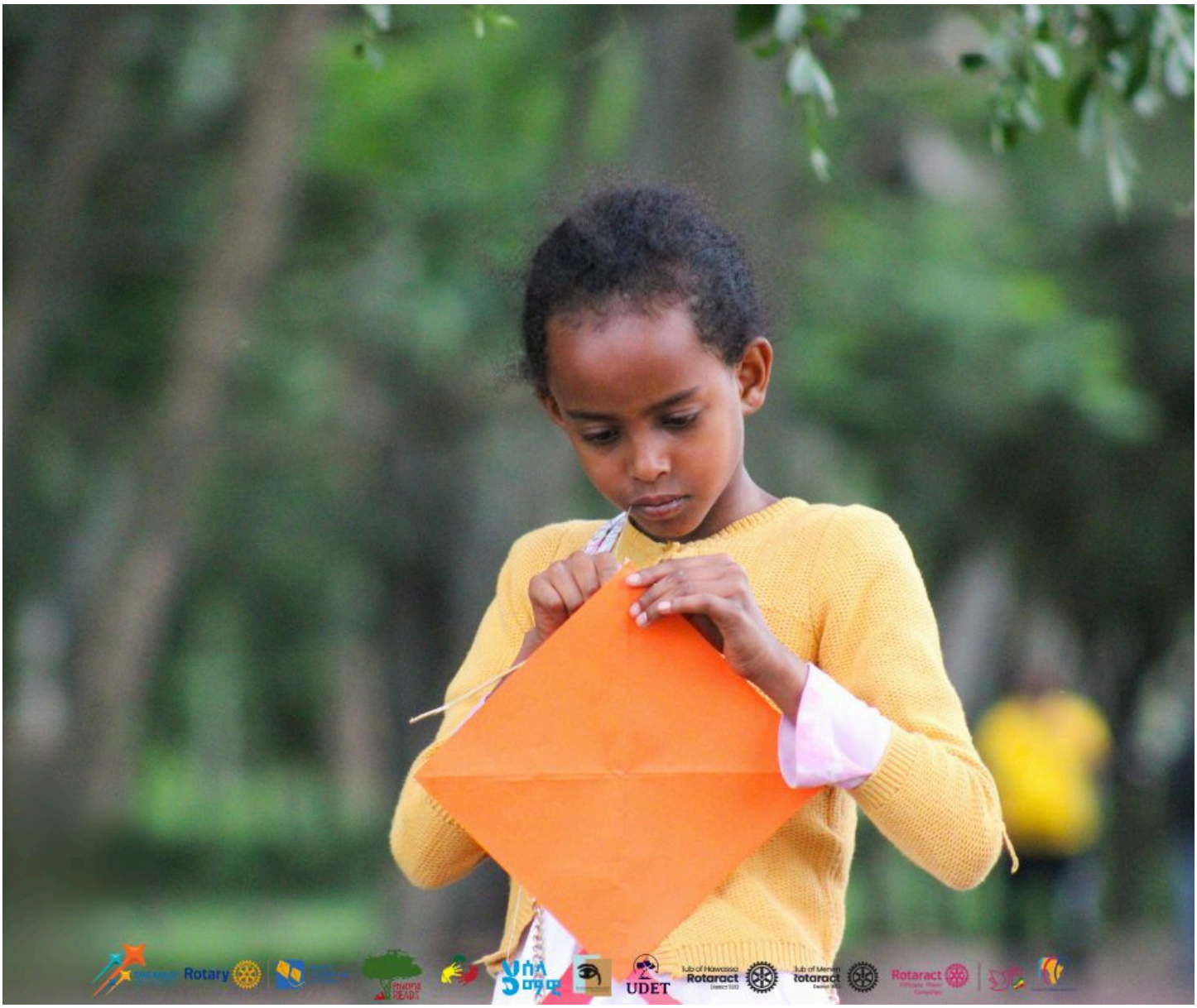
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1. Introduction

The Rotary Fellowship Of Kites (RFOK), in collaboration with Ethiopia Reads, successfully organized a two-day Kite Making and Festival event in Hawassa City, Ethiopia, from May 2–4, 2025. The event was designed to promote creativity, peace, and community engagement through kite making and flying. As part of RFOK's ongoing mission to foster peace and creativity among the youth, this event marked a significant milestone in engaging children, youth volunteers, and the community at large in a vibrant and artistic celebration.

The festival aligned with the objectives of Ethiopia Reads, which aims to nurture the love of reading and creativity among children and youth. Integrating the Kite Festival into the 2nd National Reading Festival highlighted the connection between literacy, artistic expression, and community building. The event also aimed to promote environmental awareness by encouraging the use of eco-friendly materials in kite making.



2. Activities

Day 1 (May 2, 2025) - Kite Making Workshop:

The first day of the festival was dedicated to an engaging and skill-building Kite Making workshop for members of the Rotaract Club of Hawassa and the Rotaract Club of Menen. A total of 25 youth volunteers participated in the workshop, where they learned the intricate process of designing and crafting kites using vibrant colored paper, lightweight sticks, and durable strings. Facilitated by experienced kite makers,

the workshop fostered teamwork, problem-solving, and hands-on learning.

The workshop began with an introduction to the art and history of kite making, emphasizing its cultural significance in Ethiopia and beyond. Volunteers were then guided step by step through the process of creating kites, from cutting paper into aerodynamic shapes to securing the structure with lightweight sticks. The session concluded with decorating the kites using creative patterns, which allowed each participant to express their individuality.

Day 2 (May 3, 2025) - Kite Making and Flying at the National Reading Festival:

The second day coincided with the 2nd National Reading Festival, held at Meskel Square, Hawassa City. RFOK set up a dedicated space for kite making and flying, attracting children from various schools across the Sidama Region. The activity was designed not only to entertain but to inspire creativity and innovation among the young participants.

Throughout the day, children worked in groups to craft their kites under the guidance of RFOK volunteers. They were encouraged to incorporate themes from their favorite books, blending literacy with creativity. As the kites took flight, the vibrant colors against the sky became a visual representation of imagination soaring beyond boundaries. The event became

a lively gathering where children, parents, and community members celebrated creativity and literacy together.



Day 3 (May 4, 2025) - Hawassa Lake Kite Festival:

The final day was marked by the grand launching of the handmade kites at the scenic Hawassa Lake. The lake's serene environment served as the perfect backdrop for the colorful kites to take flight. Children proudly showcased their

creations, guided by the volunteers who had helped them through the crafting process.

The atmosphere was filled with joy as families and community members gathered to witness the event. The festival concluded with an award ceremony, where the most creative kite designs and longest flight durations were recognized, encouraging further participation in future events.



3. Impact and Outcomes

The festival made a lasting impact on the local community, especially the children who participated. By merging kite making with reading activities, the event fostered a love for both artistic and literary exploration. It strengthened the community's spirit of collaboration and highlighted the potential of creative activities to enhance learning outcomes.

The active involvement of the Rotaract Clubs fostered leadership skills among the youth, while the presence of community leaders and educators underscored the importance of holistic child development. The children who participated reported increased confidence, creativity, and a sense of belonging.

4. Sustainability Strategy

To maintain the momentum generated by this festival, RFOK plans to integrate kite making into Ethiopia Reads' regular literacy programs. Additionally, RFOK will explore partnerships with other community organizations to replicate similar festivals in different regions. By developing instructional manuals on kite making, RFOK aims to enable schools and youth centers to conduct workshops independently, ensuring the sustainability of this creative initiative.

5. Gratitude and Acknowledgments

RFOK expresses deep gratitude to Ethiopia Reads for their continuous support and collaboration in making this festival a success. Special thanks are extended to the Rotaract Clubs of Hawassa and Menen for their enthusiasm and leadership throughout the event. The dedication of volunteers and the positive response from the community have been instrumental in achieving the event’s objectives. Moving forward, RFOK remains committed to fostering creativity, unity, and peace through kite flying and community engagement.