



Mercedes Rumi

Rotary Club Carmen de Areco | District 4895 | Argentina

Medical Doctor | Global Health Professional

- World Health Organization — Health Emergency Preparedness & Response
Former Rotary Youth Exchange Student — District 1790, France (2014–15)





Where it all started and how it's going 😊

Carmen de Areco
Argentina

RYE

France • 2014–15

Medicine

University of Buenos Aires

Global Health

The Global Health Network

Oxford

MSc • Rotary scholarship

WHO

Health emergencies



Rotary always supporting along the way.

There is something extremely powerful about having people who knew you when you were much younger say: *We still believe in you. Keep going.*





A year that changed my trajectory: What Youth Exchange really gave me



CONFIDENCE

I can adapt. I can find my place.

COMMUNICATION & DIPLOMACY

Listen • understand • communicate across differences



LANGUAGE

French — and a new way to connect

A GLOBAL IDENTITY

Biggest gift: Learning to see myself as part of a world beyond my own community





Talent is everywhere. Opportunity is not.

- Community, not business
- Families opening their homes
 - Local volunteers supporting young people
- International experiences made more accessible
- Opportunities reaching beyond major cities

Opportunity can change the trajectory of a young person's life.



The return on your investment can last a lifetime

- Confidence → what we believe we can achieve
 - Language → where we may live and work
- Friendships → lifelong international connections
 - Culture → how we understand difference
- Worldview → how we approach shared challenges



Thank you! And if you can... keep opening that first door.

Keep investing in young people.
Keep opening your homes.
Keep creating connections.
Keep making Youth Exchange accessible.

somewhere today there is another curious child in another small town, perhaps preparing far too many questions for an exchange student visiting their community 😊