As Rotary prepares to celebrate its 100th anniversary, it is a perfect time for all of us to review our mission, reflect on our past accomplishments, and get updates on some of our many successful programs. We should take pride in an organization that continues to redefine what “service” is all about. And most important to remember is that **Rotary is OUR organization**…it is **OUR Foundation**.

Through the programs of **OUR Foundation**, we Rotarians have made a great impact on so many lives. But our future success depends on having the support of **Every Rotarian, Every Year**.

I personally believe that we’ve just begun to tap into Rotary's **strength and power**. By the end of this presentation, my hope is that each and every one of you will be more enthusiastic about Rotary, that you will feel even more excited to invite new members to join your club, and that you will fully support the The Rotary Foundation.
The mission of The Rotary Foundation is furthering understanding and friendly relations between people of different nations. We accomplish this by fostering tangible and effective programs through local, national and international projects. Through OUR Foundation, we reach out to both our local and international communities.

Whether it’s eradicating polio, digging water wells, or educating a scholar in peace and conflict resolution, Rotary creates the environment and circumstance to promote peace throughout the world.

So I ask you, what makes Rotary special?

[Encourage Audience Participation]

Thank you for your comments

As Rotary’s founder, Paul Harris once wrote: “Beneath the good works of Rotary there is an invisible power. It is the power of good will”. That power is expressed daily through the programs of The Rotary Foundation – programs that depend upon the support of Every Rotarian, Every Year.
And what happens when we combine the energy, enthusiasm, and passion of our members? The world community pays attention.

The World Health Organization (WHO) realized the **power of Rotary** when we raised $247 million in the mid-1980’s for polio eradication. How did we do that? We mobilized volunteers, communities, governments, and even warring factions in more than 90 countries to combat polio. W-H-O was so impressed that it joined in partnership with Rotary to launch the largest public health initiative in history.

Rotary’s leadership made the goal of eradication attainable. And because of the extraordinary success of our recent campaign, **thanks to Rotarians everywhere**, we are significantly closer! By the time the world is certified polio-free, Rotary's contributions to the polio eradication effort will reach nearly **US$600 million**.

*[Speakers cue: make reference to club or district performance in the Polio Eradication Campaign]*
Polio isn’t the only project that is capturing the attention of the world community. We are among a select few organizations actively working to make peace and conflict resolution an academic discipline – one with very practical applications. TRF has partnered with eight leading universities around the world to establish Rotary Centers for International Studies in peace and conflict resolution.

One of the World Peace Scholars, Derran Moss, said at the International Assembly in Anaheim in January 2003:

“We must believe with all our heart and soul and strength that there is such a thing as truth, and to strive for it with the soul of a martyr and the intellect of an advocate. For me, being a Rotary World Peace Scholar...is about refusing to accept the world as it is, and not shutting up until something is done.”
Rotary World Peace Scholars have secured internships at various United Nations offices and have interned with organizations such as Save the Children, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (Africa), the Tibet Justice Center, and Mercy Malaysia.

Simona Pinton, a native of Padova, Italy, and is studying law at the University of California, Berkeley.

Last June, after her classes ended, Pinton traveled to Arusha, Tanzania for an internship with the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) - a body created by the United Nations to prosecute the perpetrators of the genocide that took place in Rwanda.
A favorite of many districts is the Group Study Exchange (GSE). Each year, districts either send or receive a team of professionals to study and learn the culture of another community in another part of the world. One example, which broke new ground, was an exchange between Native Americans from the southwest United States and Aborigines from Western Australia.

By the end of their visits, both teams realized that some of the issues faced by indigenous communities in the U.S. and Australia were similar. But the exchange also made them more aware of the wealth of contributions indigenous people continue to offer their countries, such as a rich cultural past, beautiful folk art, and an appreciation of their land’s natural beauty.
To commemorate 100 years of Rotary service in 2004-05, every GSE team that travels in that year will carry the special designation of **Centennial GSE Team**. The Foundation is encouraging districts to recruit special-focus GSE teams that represent Rotary’s 100 years of service.

[Speakers cue: make reference to a recent incoming or outgoing GSE team in your area]
Rotary’s Ambassadorial program is the largest privately funded scholarship program in the United States. André Mechelynck \[ma-chel-\text{ink}\] is a native of Belgium and one of the original Ambassadorial scholars. The scholarship gave him the opportunity to study in the U.S., paving the way for a career as a leader of Pugwash. Pugwash is an international organization that shared the Nobel Peace Prize in 1995 with Joseph Rotblat for their efforts to diminish the part played by nuclear arms in international politics.

[Speakers cue: reference any recent Ambassadorial scholars associated with your district]
Rotary is not afraid to go to regions deep in conflict. War-torn Kosovo has faced many obstacles to building peace, one of which is a shortage of experts in forensic medicine to properly investigate war crimes. Through a Rotary Grant for University Teachers, Rotarian Dr. Peter Markesteyn, Manitoba’s former chief medical examiner, has helped fill that void by training local professionals and securing state-of-the-art laboratory equipment.

His work was funded in part by Rotary Grants for University Teachers, which awarded 38 such grants in 2002-03.
Individual Grants

- Subsidizes travel of individuals or small groups for periods of up to 60 days
- Funding provided to plan future humanitarian projects or for a direct service to the benefiting community

Every Rotarian, Every Year

(Optional slide – time permitting)

The Foundation also supports individuals making a difference in the world. Fary Moini [moy-nee], a member of the Rotary Club of La Jolla Golden Triangle, Calif., is a registered nurse. She spent two months as a Rotary Volunteer in Pakistan in 2002, helping families in refugee camps. Upon her return home, she raised money to help build a school near Jalalabad, Afghanistan.

Moini recently received national recognition in the U.S. when she was awarded the National Hometown Hero award from the Lifetime cable television network for her efforts. Though grateful for the award, Moini said that her most significant reward was helping those in need. During her acceptance speech, Moini said: “I belong to a great organization, Rotary International, and with their encouragement, with their support, I was able to do these small things with love.”
A District Simplified Grant (DSG) is a tool Rotary districts utilize to support short-term, humanitarian projects that benefit the community.

Funded through a portion of District Designated Funds (DDF) to support projects locally or internationally.

While many of the projects funded through The Rotary Foundation are internationally based, many local projects are also supported. Districts can request up to 20 percent of District Designated Funds (DDF) for a grant to support multiple projects locally or internationally.

One example of a local project supported by TRF is Children's Opportunity Grant 1359, which was awarded in June 1999. The Rockdale County, Georgia Rotary Club raised about 90% of the funds necessary to build the first artificial turf baseball complex for disabled children in the country in Conyers, Georgia. $10,000 in grant funds helped to establish the Miracle League baseball facility and to obtain the necessary equipment. The field opened in spring 2000.

[Speakers cue: reference a local community project funded through a CAP Grant or District Simplified Grant]
Matching Grants

• Matches contributions raised by Rotary clubs and districts for international service projects involving Rotary clubs in two or more countries
• Over US$180 million spent on over 18,000 grants in more than 115 countries since 1965

Every Rotarian, Every Year

Rotary’s Matching Grants program enables clubs in one part of the world to connect with a club located a world away to combine their energies and make a difference in a community.

In Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, many children live in poverty with no running water, electricity, or sewer systems. Those born with hearing impairments are further disadvantaged.

A recent matching grant offered these children the opportunity for a better life. The $20,000 project, sponsored by Rotary Clubs in Columbia and California, funded 40 scholarships for hearing-impaired children to attend a special school, providing tuition, books, uniforms, meals, treatment with special audio equipment, and language training.
Children in Bangladesh experienced the power of Rotary when they learned to read their first book. Matching and 3-H grants are providing training in the Concentrated Language Encounter (CLE) literacy method for over 30,000 teachers. Already, more than 375,000 children have benefited. In a country with a literacy rate below 50%, the future for the children has become so much brighter. The program has expanded rapidly in other countries as well.

The growth in requests for Humanitarian Grants, coupled with a sharp decline in investment income, prompted The Rotary Foundation Trustees to restrict several Foundation humanitarian and educational programs, including new 3-H Grant applications.
Foundation programs continue to be in great demand. The NEED is great too, for people like Andrea of Hinche, Haiti. She is raising three daughters alone since the death of her husband. She can afford to send only one to school. Their only source of water is a river about 2 miles away. They bathe, wash their clothes, and fill their water jugs from this river.

A district in Minnesota has recently been awarded a major matching grant request for a safe water and sanitation project in Hinche. The grant will help the district finance the digging of latrines, teach basic health, and provide safe water for the people in Andrea's town.

Unfortunately, not all good projects like this can receive the necessary funding.

When there isn’t enough money available, the Trustees of OUR Foundation must postpone funding many urgently needed projects. The mothers and children of the world, like Andrea and her daughters, need us NOW.
The Annual Programs Fund is the primary source of unrestricted support for the programs of The Rotary Foundation. In recent years, Matching Grant requests have been delayed and Group Study Exchanges have been scaled back, because contributions have not kept pace with the growth in program activity.

This graph illustrates how Annual Giving (the yellow bars) has remained fairly constant while the number of Matching Grants approved (the blue line) has increased steadily. In 2002-03 we experienced a decline in applications submitted and approved, due to a lack of available funds. In previous years, we enjoyed the cushion of strong financial markets to meet the increased demand. But this is a luxury we can no longer rely upon.

In the next century, if Rotary is to be there to:
• provide the largest privately funded scholarship program in the world
• feed the hungry
• care for the sick
• shelter the poor
• And lead the way toward peace and world understanding,
then *Every Rotarian* needs to support the Annual Programs Fund with a contribution of US$100 or more, *Every Year.*
With a gift from *Every Rotarian, Every Year*, we can successfully raise US$70 million for the Annual Programs Fund this year, and exceed our US$100 per capita annual giving goal by our centennial year.

That’s an ambitious goal – doubling our current level of annual giving to the Foundation. Every Rotary Club will be a part of this ongoing effort. Setting goals at the club level will encourage ownership of the worldwide goal.

It’s the partnership between the clubs and The Rotary Foundation that makes Rotary such an extraordinary organization. For us to continue doing all of the great things we do, it is necessary for *Every Rotarian* to participate in the programs and to support the Foundation *Every Year.*
I’d like to close with a few words from Bill Gates, Sr., who is Co-chair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. As you may know, the Gates Foundation has contributed over $25 million in the battle to eradicate polio.

“Rotary has set a whole new standard for what people believe a volunteer organization can accomplish. Back when Rotary became involved with polio, most people thought volunteer organizations were about tackling projects down the street or across town – not across the world. Rotary changed all that, and in the process, you reminded us that there is no human problem so daunting that it can’t be overcome by people...you set a new standard for what volunteers could do.”

I want you to feel proud that you are a Rotarian and to know we need your help to build a solid future for the next century of service.
Every Rotarian can become a Rotary Foundation Sustaining Member by making one or more Annual Programs Fund gifts totaling at least US$100 each year.

Please join ME and Every Rotarian in supporting OUR Rotary Foundation, Every Year.

Thank you.