

What more do I have to say? What more do any of us have to say? If a picture is worth a thousand words, what would you say about this video? Ten thousand words? A hundred thousand words? A cool million?

What more can we say? The better question is what more is there for us to do? As they say (whoever "they" are), actions speak louder than words. They do.

We know that. That is why we are Rotarians.

And what more is there for us to do? We know the answer: "Lots".

There is lots to do.

Clearly, this is recognized through the work of our Rotary International Foundation. The mission of the RI Foundation is very simple. It is there "to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty".

The foundation recognizes the need to do these things for our species to survive. If humankind has a half a chance, it is because of organizations like Rotary and the willingness of humans to show compassion and to share with each other. That's not socialism—that's opportunistic humanitarianism.

Last year, during fiscal year 2019, the Rotary Foundation awarded \$86,677,399 in funding to 1,306 grants---everything from preventing disease such as polio, providing clean water, supporting education, growing local economies saving mothers and children and promoting peace.

And check these overall numbers. When Arch Klumph proposed setting up the endowment back in 1917 with an initial contribution of \$26.50, the powerful force that is the RI FOUNDATION has grown and grown and grown to a cumulative fund of \$2.6 billion dollars. The endowment

fund alone is \$348.6 million dollars, Polio Plus is \$1.5 billion and other funding is \$194.4 million dollars.

Total funding in 2017-2018 was \$414.7 million dollars.

The numbers are staggering. But, of course, it is never enough. To keep the engine running, it needs oil. To keep the foundation viable, we need to fund the endowment.

Now, I can tell you about the various ways that you can give and the numerous designations and levels or recognition that can be attributed to you and to others. But you can do that on your own by googling the Rotary International Foundation. Go ahead and do that and have fun with it. No matter how much or how little you can afford to give, they got you covered. You will be recognized in some fashion or another.

However, it's not about the recognition. It's about raising dollars, raising awareness and being mindful that we can all make a difference.

I want to focus on the importance of annual giving with a few simple ideas:

1. First, we are obligated—all of us to give \$100 every year per every Rotarian. This is something that you can do in bits and bites throughout the year or by using PAR—where a modest amount can be withdrawn from your bank account every month.
2. When you accumulate \$1000 in credits, you can obtain your Paul Harris Fellow or make someone else (family, friend, co-worker) a PHF. We all know how cool that is.
3. The holidays are nearly here. What better gift than a donation to the RI FOUNDATION in the name of a person who is dear to you?
4. Don't forget birthdays, anniversaries, recognition awards at your workplace, memorial gifts to those who are deceased.

5. Ask others who may have the wherewithal to contribute to the RI FOUNDATION. If you know someone who is looking to make a charitable donation, step up and let them know about what we do.

Every Monday when we gather as colleagues and fellow Rotarians, we raise a glass of this---fresh water—and we toast the greatest service organization in the world.

We do this easily and readily because we can. We don't walk a mile or two from town to acquire our water. It isn't contaminated. And to make it easier, someone else has drawn it for us—science and technology--by allowing us to turn on a tap.

When we raise a glass, let's think of those who can't. Let's think of ways that someday they can raise a glass.

Let's raise a glass, raise awareness and raise the funds so that we can raise and sustain humanity in dignity and in perpetuity.

Cheers to all of you! PH