

rotary

this is rotary



# rotary

*An organization of  
1.2 million business and  
professional leaders.  
More than 165 countries.  
Providing humanitarian  
service. Building goodwill  
and peace in the world.*

A group of people in formal attire, possibly at a ceremony, with a yellow overlay. The image shows several individuals, including men and women, some wearing suits and ties, and others in more formal, possibly ceremonial, clothing. They appear to be engaged in a conversation or a presentation. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent yellow filter.

# What is **Rotary?**

*Rotary is a global network of community volunteers. Rotary members are business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards, and help build goodwill and peace in the world.*

*Some 31,000 Rotary clubs in more than 165 countries carry out service projects in their local communities and abroad to address such critical issues as poverty, health, hunger, illiteracy, and the environment.*



# Projects

Rotary clubs participate in a broad range of humanitarian, intercultural, and educational activities designed to improve the human condition. Rotary's humanitarian grants support club projects that provide health care and medical supplies, clean water, food, job training, youth development, and education to millions of people in need — particularly in the developing world.

In addition, Rotary provides more than 200 grants each year to fund the work of Rotary volunteers, who travel to parts of the world where their technical expertise and knowledge are most needed to alleviate hardship and solve problems.





# Polio Eradication



In 1985, Rotary launched PolioPlus, an ambitious program to immunize the world's children against polio. Rotary's grassroots leadership, volunteer support, and initial funding for vaccine provided the catalyst for the World Health Assembly's resolution in 1988 to eradicate polio worldwide. Spearheading partners of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative are the World Health Organization, Rotary International, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and UNICEF.

As a result of this partnership's efforts, polio cases have dropped by 99 percent since 1988, and the world stands on the threshold of eradicating the disease. Rotary members have given more than half-a-billion U.S. dollars and countless hands-on volunteer hours to this critical effort.

The savings to be realized from polio eradication are potentially as high as US\$1.5 billion per year — funds that could be used to address other public health priorities. The savings in human suffering will be immeasurable.





# Progress

Paul P. Harris formed the world's first service club, the Rotary Club of Chicago, on 23 February 1905. The Rotary motto is Service Above Self and, as it celebrates its centennial, Rotary continues to concern itself with truth, fairness, improved relations between peoples, and world peace.

During World War II, Rotary members increasingly became involved in promoting international understanding. A Rotary conference held in London in 1942 planted the seeds for the development of the United

Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and some 50 Rotary members served as delegates and consultants at the founding of the United Nations.

Today, Rotary holds the highest consultative status with the United Nations that a nongovernmental organization can obtain. In this capacity, Rotary has a voice within the UN system allowing access to its people and resources worldwide.

# People

Belonging to a Rotary club gives men and women an enjoyable and organized way to make a contribution to their community. Rotary members meet weekly to plan club, community, and international service activities. By using their skills and expertise globally, members also enhance their professional network, career development, and cross-cultural understanding.

Rotary clubs are nonreligious, non-governmental, and open to every race, culture, and creed. Members represent a cross section of local business and professional leaders.

To learn more about a Rotary club in your community, please visit the information for prospective members section of the Rotary International Web site at [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) or contact your local club.





# Contact



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