

Presidential Appeal to all Rotary Clubs for Humanitarian Relief for Afghan Refugees

Other than the communications you've received this year concerning membership growth and extension, this letter may be the most important humanitarian appeal I will write as your President of Rotary.

We have received urgent appeals for help for the refugee children of Afghanistan. While millions of dollars have been raised for the victims of New York, there are thousands of other innocent victims, most of them children living in crowded tents, and with winter already upon them, the possibility of death from starvation, thirst, exposure and disease is serious. Many are sick, and in human terms, they feel humiliated and abandoned.

Neighbouring countries have set up emergency camps and are struggling to provide Afghan refugees with the basic amenities such as food, shelter, and clothing. All are facing an uncertain future. A letter I recently received from Pakistan expressed the grave situation and the immediate need for aid:

"With the onslaught of war and winter the victims especially elderly, the women and the children need help. To alleviate the suffering of humanity to fight against hunger and to protect the health of these refugees an international effort is needed."

I am writing to you today to provide you with an opportunity through Rotary to make a significant contribution toward alleviating this major humanitarian crisis.

A Rotary International Notice of Disaster has been issued for District 3270 in Pakistan. An account has been set up to collect funding for Afghan refugee aid and relief projects, to be overseen by District 3270's Disaster Relief Committee. Rotary clubs and individuals who wish to help with this urgently important cause may make contributions payable directly to Rotary International, earmarked for disaster relief in District 3270, and send them to Northern Trust Bank, P.O. Box 75297, Chicago, IL 60675-5297, USA.

One of the best ways you, as district governor, can contribute to this initiative is to donate up to US\$10,000 from your SHARE District Designated Fund allocated to 2001-02 Humanitarian Programs, using the attached form.

As this is a matter of urgency, I ask that contributions to this effort be sent by **31 January 2002**. When a child is starving, NOW is the time food is needed. When the child is cold, NOW is the time blankets and warm clothes are needed. There is nothing we can do to make this season of the year more meaningful in our lives than to give NOW. Please ask your Rotary clubs and the members of your district to join us today in this global humanitarian rescue.

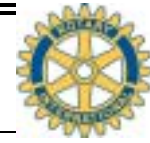
Please act on this without delay. Contact your clubs and do whatever you can. As the winter months draw nearer, time is of the essence for the Afghans living in refugee camps. All contributions will go directly and completely toward alleviating suffering among the refugees. It is my hope that with your meaningful and rapid response to this appeal, you will be able to help rebuild the future for hundreds of thousands of innocent people impacted by this crisis.

Let's show the world that for the class in black: **Mankind Is Our Business.**

With warm personal regard.

Sincerely,

Richard D. King
President



The Four Way Flasher

Rotary Club of
MeadowRidge Newsletter

Vol. 8 Issue 25
Jan. 8, 2002

Web-site: www3.telus.net/MeadowRidge_Rotary

Meetings: Tuesday 12 pm, Maple Ridge Library
 President: Ineke Boekhorst Phone: 604-463-3767 iboekhorst@telus.net
 Secretary: Debi Pearce Phone: 604-463-3767 debi@donpearce.com
 Editors: Caro O'Kennedy / Doris Gagel mrrotary@telus.net

INVOCATION **Jan. 8:** Stan Wade **Jan 15:** Merlyn White

BINGO SCHEDULE BE ON TIME!

	3:00-5:00	4:30-6:30
Jan 17:	Peter Boekhorst	Cindy Tyler
Jan 31:	Mary Robson	Gord Robson

Call Peter at 604-465-3392 for assistance or e-mail pboekhorst@telus.net



TODAY'S PROGRAM: Dr Ervin with Meadow Ridge Hospital foundation, will talk about the need in the community for a MR

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM: Business Meeting
Jan 22: Lou Passaglia - Motivational speaker
Jan 29: George McCrae - Voyage down the Fraser, from Yale to Gibsons in concert with the First Nations Peoples, and RCMP

CALENDAR OF CLUB EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Jan 10	5:00pm	Community Services Committee Mtg.	Laurie Anderson's office
Jan 24	7:30-9:30pm	Vocational Services Committee Mtg.	Betty Levens
Jan 24		Career Focus Speakers Bureau	WVSS
Jan 29	6:00pm	Fireside	THSS
Feb 1-4		Health Science Camp	
Feb 15	11:00am	Social Committee Mtg.	Rickey's (@ Extra Foods)
Feb 15		Inter-Club Valentines Dance	Meadow Gardens
Feb 26		Membership Lunch	(Meadow Gardens)?

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$330 + 1/2 of today's sales, 35 cards, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jan. 8: Jack Attarmigirian

Jan 11: Marco Terwiel

Editorial

Thank you to our Social Committee for organising the Cruise in Vancouver. Things do not always work the way we anticipate, but our Committee did a wonderful job of organising the event. Anyone who undertakes the organisation of social events, always will always have my admiration because there are so many details to take into account and then sometimes things do not quite happen the way we anticipate...

It was with great anticipation that I dashed from work, picked up my nephew and a friend and drove to Vancouver to board the Carol ship at Granville Island in mid-December. It was a blustery day, as Pooh would say. Finding the way to the quay presented a small problem, but we managed and boarded in good time.

Once on the ship, we met up with our Rotary friends and had a good time visiting. Christmas carols were playing over the PA system and generally, we got into the spirit(s) of the season. We discovered that we were sharing the ship with another group, which was a good thing, because we were a small company, all by ourselves.

Soon enough the boat glided out of her moorings and we were off on our adventure. It was smooth sailing, even though the wind was blowing and there were some waves, and we were all pointing out and looking at the Christmas lights on boats and boathouses. One tree on the beach was beautifully decorated, but it looked as if the wind had blown some of the decorations into the wrong direction – from one side the decorations were all symmetrically lined up, but from the other side they were in quite a jumble.

Somewhere along the shoreline we discovered that the boat was going up and down along False Creek and was not venturing out around the point. So, we cruised up and down and waited for dinner. The other group, larger by far, was served dinner first and then finally it was our turn. All the while Christmas Carols softly wafting through the ship. Finally dinner was served and partway through dinner we had a huge surprise.

Suddenly the tone of the music changed and it was loud and discordant to this sensitive ear. Initially nothing happened, but finally some folks drifted onto the dance floor and this is when we realised that we may be on the wrong boat: this was no Christmas Carol Cruise singing carols and generally having a good old quiet old foggy time. It was a Party Boat. Request to have the volume turned down fell on deaf ears – could not be heard above the din.

Now some folk may have enjoyed this, but this old Rotarian was looking forward to cruising the Vancouver Harbour, having a good time listening to and singing Christmas Carols while viewing Christmas lights. However, I came away with a headache and wonder what ever happened to the promise that we would be on a Christmas Carol Cruise ship. You know, the kind – warm fuzzies and good will and quiet merry making to ring in the festive season. Ah well ... will have to “get with it” for next time.

Submitted by Caro O'Kennedy

Happy New Year



Remember the good time we had last year Christmas?



'FRIENDS IN NEED' FOODBANK

A donation of \$98.25 cash + a large box of food was given to the Friends in Need Foodbank Society. Thanks to all members who participated in this annual Club project!

2 X 4 = 2 MINUTES OF ROTARY INFORMATION 4 TIMES PER MONTH

This was last week's 2 X 4 : OPPORTUNITIES FOR FELLOWSHIP

Most Rotarians are successful professional and business executives because they hear opportunities knock and take advantage of them. Once a week the opportunity for Rotary fellowship occurs at each club meeting, but not all members hear it knocking.

The weekly club meeting is a special privilege of Rotary membership. It provides the occasion to visit with fellow members, to meet visitors you have not known before, and to share your personal friendship with other members.

Rotary clubs which have a reputation of being "friendly clubs" usually follow a few simple steps:

- First, members are encouraged to sit in a different seat or at a different table each week.
- Second, Rotarians are urged to sit with a member they may not know as well as their long-time personal friends.
- Third, members invite new members or visitors to join their table just by saying: "Come join us, we have an empty chair at this table".
- Fourth, members share the conversation around the table rather than merely eating in silence or talking privately to the person next to them.
- Fifth, Rotarians make a special point of trying to get acquainted with all members of the club by seeking out those they may not know.

When Rotarians follow these five easy steps, an entirely new opportunity for fellowship knocks each week. Soon Rotarians realise that warm and personal friendship is the cornerstone of every great Rotary club.