

Major Donors Honoured

Created and Posted by Ed Kolybaba

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Club Rotarian Paul Mulvihill and Colleen Mulvihill were honoured by The Rotary Foundation as Major Donors. The presentation of the Major Donor Award, which consisted of a crystal depicting the Dove of Peace and pins were made by Foundation Committee Tom Paterson at the club's meeting on November 29, 2013, who also expressed appreciation on behalf of the club.



The recognition as a Major Donor is bestowed upon individuals or couples whose combined giving has reached US\$10,000.

Several others have been recognized as Major Donors in the past for their generosity and support for the humanitarian work that takes place worldwide by Rotarians. Ken and Barb Davidson, Robin Durrant and Jerry and Anke Sedmak have all achieved this recognition.

During the presentation, Paul Mulvihill shared how for the first fifteen years as a Rotarian he had little understanding and knowledge about the goals and outstanding contribution that the Foundation made around the world in advancing world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support for education and the alleviation of poverty. He explained that when he accepted the role of the club's PolioPlus Chair for the Rotary year 2002-03 he started to learn more about Polio and The Rotary Foundation. While doing so recognized the need to commence with a monthly donation to the Foundation that resulted in a total of \$129.03 by the end of 2002. He achieved his first Paul Harris Fellow in 2004, and in 2006 became a member of the Paul Harris Society by making and keeping a commitment to donate US\$1000 per year. Paul expressed how easy it was to simply have a monthly contribution of US\$85 per month from his credit card to achieve this commitment.

Paul's interest and support of the programs of the Foundation were also achieved through a visit to Ethiopia in 2008 where he witnessed with others firsthand how much of a difference our donations

made in the lives of those in need throughout the world. This experience solidified his need to financially support the programs of the Foundation. Paul was joined by his wife Colleen, and club members Andy and Louise Griffin, Robin Durrant and Mary Toijonen and Kelowna area Rotarians Jeff Harte, Garth and Pam Allmand and Colin Prichard in this enlightening experience. One of the projects that Paul and the others visited was a project funded by the Rotary Club of Kelowna Sunrise which provided water wells in the Gojam area.

The women in the photos have just exchanged a 2 and 1/2 hour walk for a fifteen minute one. The sheer joy these women experience by no longer having to walk 3-4 hours home with 50-60 pounds of water on their backs was unforgettable.



In his concluding remarks, Paul expressed that we should all give what we can and that we should attempt to do so on a monthly basis as this is an easy way to support the work of the Foundation and our own club on humanitarian projects of our choosing. He noted that our donations enable members like Fred Lindsay, through his work with the Honduras project, and Dieter Howald, with the support he and his wife have given for the Uganda project, to make a difference. "Peace and good work in the world is what Rotary is and does," confirmed Paul.