

Service Foundation Campaign Reaches 40% of \$250,000 Goal

Totem Report November 29, 2017

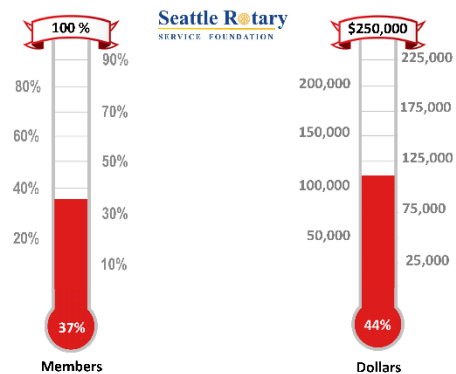
By Pete DeLaunay

The Seattle Rotary Service Foundation (SRSF) and The Rotary Foundation (TRF) of Rotary International raise funds to support needed services here and worldwide. Hands on projects such as assembling medical kits and helping at Rotary First Harvest are great, but our financial contributions fuel traction in many meaningful ways. **President Mark** called on all Rotarians to step up with their minimum required contribution of \$400 to SRSF and \$100 to TRF as our annual campaign is underway.

Reporting for both foundations, **Jann Curley** said our club had raised more than 40% of our SRSF \$250,000 goal to fund service committee grants, and we are well on the way to funding our TRF goal. All Rotarians were asked to make their tax-deductible contributions today!

President Mark asked Rotarians **Simone Loban** and **Robert Stadler** to offer a ‘flash presentation’ about three SRSF Seattle Rotary Boys and Girls Club grants. “In August Rotarians put school supplies in back packs for 100 B&G club members, and every weekday our club funds a hot meal for 60 children,” Simone said, “and for many Rotary Club kids it is their only hot meal of the day.”

Robert followed with a report on the SRSF funded Phil Smart Sr. Scholarship. “With \$7500 from SRSF we provided two scholarships to Rotary Boys and Girls Club members,” he said. “Your contributions to the SRSF helped send Teonna to Texas Southern University, and Isaiah to North Seattle College – previous recipients have been able to attend WSU, UW, Morehouse St. Johns, Seattle U, and Seattle Central College.” Get out your checkbook!



Reinforcing Rotary’s commitment to service, Past Seattle 4 President, **Don Kraft** (69 years of perfect attendance), came to the podium offering his periodic ‘Four Bits’ segment – putting a spotlight on one of our club’s many accomplishments. He described the inception of a new concept for Rotary, “world community service” that was brought to our club in 1962 by Rotary International President Nitish Laharry of India. Don’s father and past club president **Warren Kraft** took the initiative with Seattle 4 to get what is now The Rotary Foundation off the ground. Don’s extended family was in attendance, representing Rotary service over the past 75 years and including four generations (from Don’s dad to his grandson, Carl VanderHoek) and eight current Rotarians from three clubs.

District 5030 Governor, Alex Hopkins, came to the podium to describe an international peace maker program called the Berlin Peace Innovation Lab. Funded in part by RI, the lab is a school for Syrian refugees to learn about programming and digital integration. He presented a banner for District Peacebuilder Chair, and Seattle 4 past president, **Cathy Gibson**; who will carry the banner to the International Peacebuilder Conference, 2/9 to 2/11.



For the day's program, President Mark introduced Geekwire's Monica Nickelsburg to moderate a discussion with Flying Fish Partners Co-Founder and Chair of the Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, Heather Redman; and Windermere Chief Economist, Matthew Gardner to speculate about the now global story: where in the world will Amazon HQ2 land?

Both presenters admitted to 'not having a clue about what Amazon will do', but offered some interesting factoids:

- 238 cities are competing for Amazon's HQ2
- Amazon promises 50,000 jobs and a \$5 billion investment in the new city
- Amazon currently has 8.8M square ft. of office space in Seattle with 5M sq. ft. planned in the future
- There are 45,000 Amazon employees in downtown Seattle with 20,000 more expected
- Phoenix sent Jeff Bezos a cactus to entice HQ2 – it was sent back
- Cities should ask "at what point will HQ2 detract from infrastructure investments?"
- Possible landings include Washington, D.C. for political implications and Texas for aerospace
- Spin-offs from Boeing, Microsoft, UW and Amazon fuel the local economy
- The S&P Index used to have a 70 year lifespan, and now it is 15 years
- There is expected to be a 30% job loss by 2030 due to automation



Presenters speculated about Amazon's potential anti-trust challenges, poaching employees from the Bay Area, and that Seattle shouldn't take any of our large employers for granted. They said Amazon has largely benefited Seattle, and hoped our new Mayor will create another growth spike as Seattle is somewhat considered 'crazy' right now.

President Mark opened the meeting by introducing Don Kraft for the day's invocation, followed by **Don Murphy** who led Rotarians with the 'Star Spangled Banner' without the benefit of piano, guitar or banjo. **George Twiss** introduced new member, **Mitch Grafstein**, who comes to Seattle 4 Rotary from the Bellevue club.