

Rotary Foundation's Six Areas of Focus 10/16/19 Presentation

The Rotary Foundation's work has six major **areas of focus**.

1. The first is Disease Prevention and Treatment.

Rotary has been working to eradicate polio for over 30 years, starting in 1979 by vaccinating 6 million children in the Philippines. Today, Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Pakistan are the only countries where polio remains endemic.

Rotary also fights diseases like malaria, HIV/AIDS, Alzheimer's, MS, diabetes, and Dengue fever. We also do health education and bring people hearing, vision, and dental care. And we set up clinics, blood donation centers, and training facilities in underserved areas struggling with disease outbreaks and health care access.

Our club's PolioPlus giving over the past three years has averaged almost \$14,000/year.

2. The second area of focus for RI's work is Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene.

When people have access to clean water and sanitation, disease decreases, children stay healthier and go to school more regularly, and mothers spend less time carrying water and more time helping their families.

RI doesn't just build wells and infrastructure and walk away. We share expertise with community leaders to make sure our projects succeed long-term.

Our club has contributed \$2000 to a total grant of \$79,000 for drilling wells in Guatemala.

3. The third area of focus for RI work is Maternal and Child Health.

Six million children under five die each year because of malnutrition, poor health care, and inadequate sanitation—all of which can be prevented.

Rotary members distribute clean birth kits and train health workers in safe delivery of babies. They work to keep children alive during their first year by teaching mothers how to breast-feed and how to prevent mother-to-infant HIV transmission; by promoting immunizations and regular checkups; and by distributing insecticide-treated bed nets.

Our club has contributed \$2500 to the District's \$20,000 Global Grant to the Healthy Kids, Brighter Future project in Zambia, which helps prevent and treat disease in needy children. In addition, the District has set aside \$7700 for a maternity ward upgrade in Bulgaria.

4. The fourth area of focus is Supporting Basic Education and Literacy.

775 million adults worldwide can't read or write. We work to support basic education and literacy and to reduce gender disparity in education.

Our club supports work in this area via our contributions to local libraries and our scholarships for local high-schoolers.

Our District has matched Global Grant Foundation money for a literacy project in Guatemala and for teacher digital learning in India.

5. The fifth area of RI's focus is Economic and Community Development.

Nearly 800 million people live on less than \$1.90 a day. Rotary members work to provide sustainable solutions to poverty and to strengthen local entrepreneurs and leaders, particularly women, in poor areas.

Rotary has set up microloan programs so people can become entrepreneurs as street vendors, rickshaw drivers, and tailors and so others in rural areas can borrow money to buy livestock or plant crops, or get training in sustainable farming.

Our District has provided \$3660 for a project in Puerto Rico for hurricane relief and recovery efforts. And all the water projects we contribute to certainly enhance community and economic development.

6. Rotary's sixth and final area of focus is Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention.

Conflict and violence displaced more than 68 million people in the past year, and half of those are children.

Through service projects, peace fellowships, and scholarships, Rotary addresses underlying causes of conflict, including poverty, inequality, ethnic tension, and lack of access to education.

\$142 million has been raised by Rotary to support peace. Over 1000 students have graduated from Rotary's global Peace Centers program.

Our own club has supported Peace Jam at CEHS to work on issues of conflict. And our District sent \$4300 to Peace Centers in 2019.

As you can see, the Rotary Foundation accomplishes a tremendous amount of work in furtherance of its six goal areas. We here in South Portland and Cape Elizabeth are part of that great work.