

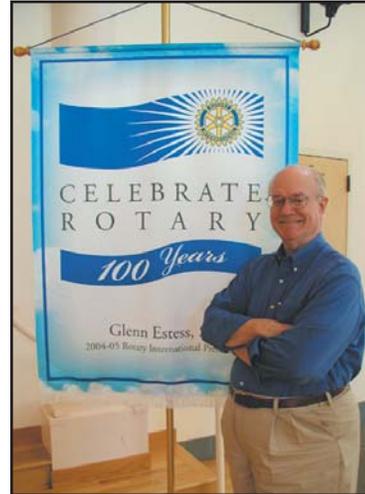
# CUPERTINO ROTARY ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION

*Providing a Continuing Legacy for Local and International Giving*



## **PLAN FOR OUR FUTURE... FOREVER** *Through a Gift to our Club Endowment*

Don Allen,  
Club Endowment Fellow



When I was growing up, my dad frequently referred to the story of “the squirrel and the nuts”. His observation was that squirrels gathered nuts and saved them for the cold winter, sort of a food cellar for squirrelhood. Squirrels do this instinctively, and their instinct is worth emulating. We have the same opportunity to plan for our futures, not just for one winter, but forever. Over time, even small amounts saved gather interest and grow remarkably.

Most of you know that this is the second marriage for Sally and me. We each have three children... Sally has three daughters and I have three sons. So, when we married 16 years ago we discovered that we had our own *Brady Bunch*. We wanted the kids to get along well, but didn't want to force them together; so we let their inter-sibling relationship develop at its own pace. One of the tools we used in this effort was the encouragement of caring for others, especially in our own community.

Nothing brings us closer than when we do something for others. And it's impossible to not feel better about ourselves, and our peers, when we are involved in helping someone, even in very small ways. In our family, it brought us closer together, and got us to discussing common solutions for other's problems. It made us one family rather than two families living parallel lives.

One of my proudest moments occurred a couple years ago at Thanksgiving. We were all gathered at the dinner table, and one of the kids (now all adults) said, “I wish we magically could have a million dollars.” When asked “why?” the response was “so we could give it away to those who really need it!” Maybe we did a better job raising them that we realized.

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