

Our Rotary Foundations

From time to time, one of our members asks, “Why should I donate to The Foundation?” Let me answer that question by explaining why the Rotarians of the Rotary Club of West U support our two foundations.

When a Rotarian mentions “The Foundation”, we usually assume they are speaking of The Rotary Foundation (TRF) which exists to support the local and international humanitarian and educational service projects created by the clubs of Rotary International. The Rotary Foundation is one of the most respected and highest rated charities in the World. None of our dues go to TRF; it is supported totally by donations.

The Rotary Foundation utilizes three funds: The Annual Fund, which helps fund District Grants (which mostly supports smaller, local service projects), larger international Global Grants – including Global Grant Scholars, Rotary’s global Polio eradication effort, and Rotary’s Peace Centers. The second Fund is the PolioPlus Fund which exclusively supports Rotary’s Global Polio Eradication effort. And the third Fund is Rotary’s Endowment which is largely funded by estate plans and insurance policies but can also be funded by cash donations. Donations to the Endowment are never spent, with a portion of the investment earnings being used each year to support the TRF programs as directed by the donor of those funds.

The donations which our West U Rotarians make with their dues are directed to the Annual Fund.

Donations to the Annual Fund are used to fund Rotary programs three years after the Rotary year of the donations. The investment proceeds of these donations during these three years are used to pay for the overhead of the foundation.

Each Rotarian is encouraged to donate to both the Annual Fund and the PolioPlus Fund each year – in amounts determined by that individual’s financial resources.

One plus of giving to TRF is that when, over time, one reaches a total of \$1,000 given, that person will be recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow, which is considered to be an important honor. Many Rotarians appreciate the work of TRF so much that they continue to give after their first \$1,000 to become Multiple Paul Harris Fellows and Major Donors (\$10,000+).

The West U Rotary Club also has its own foundation named The West U Rotary Club Foundation (WURCF) which supports the local and international service projects which our Board of Directors and Club Foundation Boards select. These have included our Rotary Field House Centennial Project (our largest service project to date with a commitment of \$125,000), support for our Youth Exchange Students, Vocational & Service Scholarships, our Pro Vision field house project, The Women’s Home, the Haiti Bio-medical training project, Easter Seals, Camp For All, Rotary Books for the World, Senior Services, sports sponsorships, Stella

Link Redevelopment, Club Mid - our YMCA based after school project, literacy projects, and so much more. Our club fundraising through our Holiday flags, golf tournament, and a few individual gifts goes toward these service projects. We raise these funds one year and often spend them that same year or the next.

As I hope you can tell, I am a big believer in both of our foundations, and I encourage you to support them both. They really are our foundations as we can affect both the donations to and the spending from them. Both foundations are well run and do a good job of making sure that your money is put to good use in our local and global communities.

If you are interested in finding out how close you are to becoming a new or multiple Paul Harris Fellow or if you have any interest in finding out more about becoming a Paul Harris Society (\$1,000/year donor) Member, please give me a call (713-825-1176) or email bigzlumber@aol.com.

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Rotary Club of West U
Past President 2004-05
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