

11/10/17

*Dear Fellow Shawnee Mission Rotarians:*

*As November is Foundation Month, I would like to remind you about what the Rotary Foundation is and does, as well as the ways every Rotarian can contribute to the Foundation and make a difference locally, nationally, and world-wide.*

**What is the Rotary Foundation?**

It is the economic engine for Rotary International. Starting with a gift of \$26.50 from the Rotary Club in Kansas City, Missouri in 1917 (money left from the international convention that year), the Foundation grew into a non-profit corporation supported by voluntary contributions from Rotarians (and friends of Rotary) from over 35,000 clubs world-wide who share the vision of a better world.

The mission of The Rotary Foundation is “to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty”. The Foundation helps fund humanitarian activities, from local service projects to global initiatives, and continues to lead the worldwide Rotary campaign to eradicate polio and to promote world peace.

**What are the levels of giving to the Foundation?**

A **Sustaining Member** is a Rotarian who makes a minimum **\$100** contribution to the Annual Programs Fund of the Foundation and/or to Polio Plus and states his or her intention to contribute a minimum of \$100 yearly thereafter (approximately \$8.33/month). After **\$1000** has been contributed, a Rotarian becomes a **Paul Harris Fellow** and receives a recognition certificate and pin. Multiple Paul Harris Awards can be earned, and over time become a **Major Donor** after **\$10,000** has been contributed. (There are also levels of Major Donors, as contributions increase.)

A **Paul Harris Society Member** is a Rotarian who makes a contribution of **\$1,000 annually** to the Foundation (approximately \$84/month). Nine of our club members are Paul Harris Society members.

A **Sunflower Society Member** is anyone within District 5710 who contributes **\$2,500 annually** to the the Annual Fund and/or Polio Plus. One of our club members is a Sunflower Society member.

A **Benefactor** pledges a gift of **\$1,000** to the Endowment Fund in an estate plan, and a **Bequest Society Member** pledges **\$10,000 or more** in an estate plan which is given to the Endowment Fund. These donations are invested for the future; only earnings from these investments are used to support current Foundation programs. Contributions can be made with outright gifts (cash, security, real estate, tangible personal property) or by a bequest in a will, trust or estate plan. Giving to this Permanent Fund enables individuals to combine their gifts into a significant force to address some of the world's greatest needs for generations to come.

There are other higher donor levels from **\$250,000** to become a member of the **Arch Klumpf Society** to over **\$10,000,000** to become a **Platinum Foundation Circle** member.

Of course, we would like all of our club members to be generous supporters of the Rotary Foundation. Remember, the Foundation has a 4-star charity rating and over 91% of all monies collected is spent on programs. ***Our goal is to have 100% of our members be \$100/year sustaining members***, and hopefully many members will contribute at higher levels, as well. I will be glad to mail in any contributions to the Foundation for you, or you can make credit card donations through the Rotary website. Be sure to check out the page that follows showing how our contributions are used!

*Yours in Rotary,*

**Russ Erickson**  
**Club Foundation Chairperson**

## The Rotary Foundation Annual Fund – Share Program and Polio Plus

### Contributions at Work

*Where does our money go when we become Sustaining Members of the Rotary Foundation (\$100/year contribution) or a Paul Harris Fellow (\$1000 contribution)?* The Annual Fund – Share Program is the primary source of funding for a broad range of local and international Rotary Foundation projects. At the end of each Rotary fiscal year, funds raised are directed into grants that change lives: 50% goes into the World Fund and 50% is credited back to the individual districts whose members contributed the funds.

The six *primary* areas of focus are...

- **Peace and conflict prevention/resolution** – providing training for leaders in prevention and mediation of conflict; supporting peace building in areas affected by conflict
- **Disease prevention and treatment** – enhancing health infrastructures in communities by supporting disease prevention programs, education in the spread of diseases, and improving the capacity of local health care providers
- **Water and sanitation** – providing access and strengthening communities abilities to develop, fund, and maintain sustainable water and sanitation systems
- **Maternal and child health** – reducing childhood mortality and morbidity rates
- **Basic education and literacy** – involving communities to support programs to strengthen their capacity to provide basic education and literacy to all, increase adult literacy, and reduce gender disparity
- **Economic and community development** – reducing poverty in under-served communities and developing opportunities for productive work

**Polio eradication** has been Rotary's top philanthropic priority since 1985. At that time, there were over 350,000 polio cases in 125 countries. In 1988, Rotary began working with the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. Since then, more than 2 billion children have been immunized, and the incidence of polio has decreased over 99%. In fact, only 12 new cases of polio have been reported in 2017! Rotary's involvement in this process include conducting National Immunization Days and monitoring polio virus transmission.

So much can be accomplished locally, throughout our District, nationally, and worldwide by combining our resources and entrusting the Rotary Foundation to carry out these vast and needed projects. Please remember if every Rotarian contributes just ***\$100 annually*** as a ***Sustaining Member*** of the Foundation – ***just \$.28 per day*** – these countless humanitarian and educational possibilities become a reality for people worldwide!

***Remember.....Every Rotarian, Every Year!***