YEARS
1972 – 2012
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Letter from Kaylan Banerjee, RI President 2011-2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Letter from Ute Papke, District Governor 2011-2012, RI District 6670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Message from Dr. Don Overly, Charter President 1972-1973, Rotary Club of Centerville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Message from Erich Eggers, President Rotary Club of Centerville, 2011-2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Why I Joined Rotary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>“This is Rotary - A Christmas Story”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>The Story of Rotary International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>The Rotary Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>“A Bit of Our History”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Community Service Projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Americana Festival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Blue Star Mothers of America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Dictionary Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>CHS Science Olympiad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Adopt-A-Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>CHS Spirit Chain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Holiday Food Baskets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Fisher / Nightingale Houses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>House of Bread</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Food2Go / Food4Summer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Benham’s Grove Gazebo Construction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Oak Grove Park Shelter Construction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>Rotary Memorial Pine Forest / List of Deceased Rotarians Rotary Club of Centerville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>School House Park Walkway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>ISUS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>Kalaman Scholarship Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>Miami Valley Freedom Alliance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>Mercy Manor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>Youth Programs of Centerville Rotary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>Scholarships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>4-Way Speech Contest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>Service-Learning Trips for High School Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>Interact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54</td>
<td>Rotaract</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>Youth Exchange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57</td>
<td>Rotary Youth Leadership Awards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58</td>
<td>International Service Projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58</td>
<td>Bandung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59</td>
<td>Nias</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>Fidjig</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62</td>
<td>Maji Mazuri / Kenya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64</td>
<td>Lesotho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66</td>
<td>Group Study Exchange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>“End Polio Now”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82</td>
<td>Fundraisers/Pancake Breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89</td>
<td>Club Presidents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90</td>
<td>Paul Harris Fellows / Major Donors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92</td>
<td>Club Meetings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94</td>
<td>Social Events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>96</td>
<td>Club Members as District Governor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>97</td>
<td>Rotary Banners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>98</td>
<td>Current Members</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INTRODUCTION

It has been just about a year ago that I was asked to chair the preparations for the celebrations of the 40th anniversary of the Centerville Rotary Club. It has been a fun experience in which all committee members contributed very much. A big thank you therefore to all those who spent many hours working on making this a very memorable event: Carol Kennard, Judy Budi, Cynthia Fraley, Kim Senft-Paras, Mae Berkel, Bob Jackson and President Erich Eggers. I hope they all had just as much fun as I did!

The “lustrum committee” decided that it was a good idea to make a book commemorating the 40 years of Rotary in Centerville. One of the things we found out very soon in the process is that “historical data” is difficult to find. For one thing, of the original 27 Charter members of our club, after 40 years “only” four remain. Also, archives get lost, misplaced etc. Judy Budi has done a yeoman’s job in trying to find old records etc. Digital cameras have changed the way we preserve photos. The old prints have become yellow or have disappeared. Thus when you look through this book, you’ll find more photos from the most recent decades compared to the earlier years. Despite the fact that we could not find much detail about the earlier years, we hope that future generations of Rotarians will find this account of the history of our club fun, enlightening and stimulating.

The primary intent of the book is to chronicle the 40-year history of the Centerville Rotary Club in R.I. District 6670. We also included some general information about Rotary. We hope that this will allow the book to be not only an interesting account of things past, but also that it will be useful in attracting new members to our club. What better way to showcase “who you are and what you do” than by showing our history of involvement in our community, support of education, and participation in international projects. This historical account of the Centerville Rotary Club indeed shows that our club is the embodiment of Rotary’s motto of “SERVICE ABOVE SELF.”

MESSAGE FROM KAYLAN BANERJEE, RI PRESIDENT 2011-2012

Kaylan Banerjee
President, RI 2011-2012

13 June 2012

To the members of the
Rotary Club of Centerville, Ohio, USA

My dear brothers and sisters in Rotary,

I am pleased to offer my congratulations to you as you celebrate your club’s fortieth anniversary.

Forty years ago, your club’s charter members came together to begin a Rotary club—to share their ordinations and their vision to make Centerville, Ohio a better place.

Today, Centerville is a better place, because it has a Rotary club—where men and women of talent, ability, caring, and compassion come together to share their strengths with others. It is my belief that we Rotarians are pragmatic idealists, who bring our ideas to life through our Rotary service. We aspire to live our lives ethically, honestly, with the “easy Way” just to guide us, so we work to elevate ourselves and thereby, to elevate the world.

All the lights of the world cannot be compared even to one ray of inner light of the self. And when Rotarians come together in love and service, those rays of inner light beam more brightly together. In the years to come, this is my wish for your club: that the flames of love and devotion burn in your hearts, that the light of understanding shine in your minds, that the warmth of harmony glow in your homes, and that the bright rays of service shine forth ceaselessly from your hands.

Sincerely,

Kalyan Banerjee
President, RI 2011-2012
INTRODUCTION

CENTERVILLE ROTARY CLUB

MESSAGE FROM UTE PAPKE, DISTRICT GOVERNOR 2011-2012, RI DISTRICT 6670

February 23rd, 2011. President Erich Eggers, Centerville Club

Dear President Erich,

I congratulate you and the entire Centerville Club on your 40th anniversary (club date: 6-13-72). That’s quite an accomplishment. Your sponsor, I understand, was Miamisburg.

Forty years ago, your Club’s Charter Committee came together to start a Rotary Club – to share their enthusiasm and their vision to make Centerville, Ohio a better place to live.

Just think of the many projects you have had over the years and still have, to improve the lives of everyone locally as well as internationally, including the formation of an Interact and Rotaract Club.

In my belief that Rotarians aspire to live ethically and honestly, as Tom Singular once said, we as a club, must be involved and participate in the betterment of our community as well as the world.

In his letter to President Kalman Baranovski says: “All the lights of the world cannot be compared to one ray of inner light of the soul. When Rotarians come together in love and service, these rays of light burn more brightly together. In the years to come, this is my wish for your Club. That the flame of love and devotion for our friends, that the light of understanding shine in your minds, that the warmth of harmony grow in your homes, and that the bright rays of service shine forth ceaselessly from your hearts.”

With that, I congratulate you and look forward to your photos and an article in the District Newsletter.

Reach Within to Embrace Humanity

Service above SELF

Ute Papke, DG 2011-2012
721 Lullaby Court
District 6670
Miamisburg, Ohio 45342

MESSAGE FROM CHARTER PRESIDENT, 1972: DR. DON OVERLY

A little over forty years ago, a few of us sat down in my office to discuss forming a Rotary Club in Centerville’s Washington Township. We met with three members of the Miamisburg Rotary Club, our sponsoring Club, to learn about Paul Harris and the founding Rotary fathers and about the underlying theme of “helping others throughout the world” through Rotarian efforts. After several meetings we began the task of identifying prospective members in our community. We soon identified 27 prospective members to form our own Club. Only four – Lee Hennomyus, Harvey Smith, Jack Workman, and myself - remain in the Club as Charter Members.

The Chapter Advisor was Paul Schultz from the Miamisburg Club and the Chapter District Governor was William Strawman from the Fairborn Club. We held several meetings prior to our official Charter date of June 13, 1972, meeting on Thursdays at the now Mexican Restaurant across from Magsig Middle School. Shortly after our organizational meeting, we moved across the street to Antonio’s Restaurant (now Sweeney’s Restaurant) where we held weekly meetings for many years. Approximately 17 years ago, we moved to Yankee Trace where we still have our weekly meetings.

One of our first official activities was to host an exchange student from Mexico. Our first Rotary host for this exchange student was Mike Ciccolella. This was especially significant as the Ciccolellas ended up adopting their first child, a Mexican baby, from our exchange student’s home town. Our “Rotary World” began to expand with this exchange. Over the past 39 years our Club has hosted exchange students from Germany, Japan, Sweden and numerous other countries, averaging at least one student each year. In addition, we have hosted adult exchange groups for shorter periods of time, learning of and sharing cultural differences. Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Japan, Russia, and Denmark among other countries are included in this group. Funds for our numerous service projects, including educational scholarships, City and Park District gazebos, dictionaries and thesauri for 3rd and 5th graders, and many other local and worldwide programs have been acquired from various sources, but primarily from serving spaghetti dinners and pancake breakfasts. In addition, tens of thousands of dollars have been sent to Rotary International from members becoming Paul Harris Fellows.

Harvey Smith, one of our founding members, became our Club’s first District Governor. Russ Brinkman followed Harvey in this leadership role several years later. Our Club has experienced great leadership as evidenced not only from our local presence, but also from an unusual number of District Governors originating from our club: Sivaji Subramaniam, John Beals, and Hans Brekel also served with distinction and we are indebted to all five of them for their outstanding leadership.

Forty years have passed by quickly and we have gained a feeling of pride from helping those who are less fortunate. Assisting in attempting to eliminate Polio worldwide has been a significant task but there are so many local, national, and worldwide projects that one can only thank God for directing us in these activities. The enjoyment we find in our weekly meetings has been fulfilling. Lasting and rewarding friendships will be treasured.

Don Overly - June 2012
MESSAGE FROM OUR CURRENT AND 40TH PRESIDENT: ERICH EGGERS

It was the fall of 2002 my daughter Lindsey was just starting her freshman year at Centerville High School. Lindsey was 14 years old at the time. Until this point in time Lindsey had dedicated much of her life to becoming a very good student athlete in soccer. A string of physical injuries was quickly putting a damper on Lindsey’s ability to perform at the highest level of competition. When you play any sport at the level that Lindsey played soccer it requires a huge investment of time to perfect your skills. When Lindsey made the decision to drop out of soccer there was a very large void in her life. She was not sure what she was going to do to fill her time. The good thing about Centerville High School is you don't have to look very hard to find a club or an activity to get involved with.

I don’t know how it happened but Lindsey discovered Interact club. I remember the day she came home from school and told Kelly and I that she was going to Peru. As you might guess Kelly and I were quite surprised. Being concerned parents both Kelly and I told Lindsey not to get her hopes up... “this is probably a trip for upper classmen”... and any other excuse that we could think of at the time. Lindsey was not open to hearing all of these negative thoughts from her parents. In her mind she was going to Peru and she was going to figure out how to make it happen. She decided the first step was to become an officer of the Interact club. She thought if she was the international officer her chances might be better at getting selected to go to Peru. So she talked to the other students and got herself elected. Part of the selection process was writing an essay and of course Lindsey was writing the best essay she could. Sometimes the best thing a parent can do is get out of your child's way. That is what Kelly and I decided to do.

Lindsey was selected for this trip along with 6 or 7 other high school students. Over spring break of 2003 the trip to Peru was made. It was after
this life changing experience for my daughter that I became enamored with Rotary. Rand Oliver, Fred Weir and Ken Miller approached me and asked me to join the club. My decision was pretty much a “no brainer” after seeing the effects on my daughter. After joining Rotary I was immediately asked to be the Vocational Chair. This seemed to be a pretty good fit for me since Lindsey was involved with Interact. This position in the club gave me the opportunity to start learning the ropes of Centerville Rotary. The success of the Peru trip left the club with the desire to have another international trip. Our club could see the benefit in providing these international opportunities to high school students, not to mention the people we were helping.

In 2004 we started investigating the possibility of partnering with “Heart to Honduras” to have another international experience. There was a need to build a chicken coop. Rand Oliver spearheaded this opportunity. We worked closely with our Interact club to find students who wanted to participate in this international trip. We had 7 students and 4 Rotarians on this trip. This trip to Honduras was my first service trip. I found out that you need to be very flexible when going on a service trip. When we arrived in Honduras we found that we still had about a 4 hour commute to get to the area where we were staying. The first 2 hours was by bus...the last 2 hours was by pickup truck. All passengers were in the pickup truck bed. Did I mention dirt roads, pot holes and dust? When we arrived to our destination we had a tour of the facility. All things considered it was quite nice for a third world country. On our tour we found out that the chicken coop that was being built was actually a 25’ x 50’ pole barn. I am in the construction business and let me tell you, that is a BIG chicken coop to be constructed by high school students. Did I tell you we had 7 days to build this structure? When we got up the first day we were told that the building material did not get delivered. No problem we still would have 6 days to build this pole barn. So we set out over the country side, in the back of pickup trucks over dirt and gravel roads, to go paint a school. This was a very fun project for the kids. After we were done painting the school, we had a little time left to play a friendly game of soccer with the local kids.

When we got up the second day we were told that the building material would be delivered that day. No problem right… it is only a 25’ x 50’ pole barn for 6 high school girls, 1 high school boy and 4 ambitious young Rotarians. While we were waiting for the building material, we had to excavate by hand...picks, shovels, wheel barrows you get the idea right….the entire perimeter of the foundation. This was done to keep the snakes away. When is that building material arriving? No problem we still have 5 days. The next morning still no material…that’s okay we still have to excavate for the water line. How long did you say that trench was? Only 300 feet...we are experts with all these hand tools now…after working for 2 days digging, picking, and shoveling the only casualties where blisters on our hands and feet. Do you know what the average temperature is in Honduras?

The material finely arrived about 4:00pm. Fred Weir and I started taking an inventory of the material that was delivered. It did not take us long to figure out that the lumber that was delivered would be used to frame the roof. That’s funny I thought most people realized that you really need to build walls first. Keep in mind this is Honduras, Lowes or Home Depots do not exist in Honduras….any materials are 4 hours away. No problem we still have 4 days. When we got to the construction site the next morning we had a plan…we were ready and willing… “what do you mean the extension cord doesn’t reach?” Remember what I said about flexibility. We had to move all of the building material to where the extension cords would reach. No sawing, drilling or milling had to be done within the reach of the extension cord, then we moved the material to where it would be installed. We made all of the trusses we could that day until we ran out of material…we were only short one truss. Not a problem the rest of the material is on its way. When the material arrived I had just enough daylight to count everything that was delivered so I could come up with a plan. Not a problem 3 days left.

The next morning we started on the walls. This day went pretty smooth. I think we all started to adjust to the Honduran way of life. We put those walls up in no time, the team work was incredible. The walls went up that day without a hitch. The next step was setting our handmade trusses. Keep in mind our team…6 high school girls, 1 high school boy, 4 young Rotarians, our hosts David and Jim. Those trusses were very heavy…I was a little concerned about our safety. The trusses only had to go up 12 feet. Where is the crane?

That evening we talked with our host about getting help. Our host said that would not be a problem. I hope the help is more reliable than the material delivery…2 more days.

The next morning we were pleasantly surprised. We had 6 carpenters show up to help with the project. These Honduran carpenters were very good….very ambitious and very hard workers. They helped with every aspect of the project…setting trusses, pulrins and roof sheathing. The students were installing the chain link fence as the roof was being completed. By the end of the second day working with the Honduran carpenters we were overcoming our communica- tion barriers. We were joking and just plain having fun completing the project. We paid those carpenters twice what they would have earned at their normal jobs. It was a real win-win situation. We completed the “chicken coop” on time with the help of our Honduran carpenters.

So back to the original question “why did I join Rotary?” Well the answer is pretty simple, Rotary provides opportunities, opens doors, and helps to form people’s lives. Rotary, in plain words, does amazingly good things in this world! That is why I joined Rotary.
A CHRISTMAS STORY
by Moe Berkel

A counselor of a school in Centerville wrote the following letter not too long ago:

“I find myself in a position to help a little boy and his family. A 10-year old at our school has been diagnosed with a terrible, rare disease, called Dock-8-Mutation. He has basically little or no immune system and the prognosis is not good. Mom is a single mother with 4 kids. Her paycheck depends on her being at work, which is tough because she is so often at the hospital. My heart breaks for her. We are reaching out in every way at our school with fundraisers, church donations, staff donations, clubs and groups. We are hoping to provide mom with enough money to pay her bills for four months. If he gets a bone marrow transplant, that’s about what she will need since she will have to stay near him at the Children’s Hospital in Cincinnati. I have known this family for eight years and I know this to be a hard working woman doing her best for her children. She often works 50 hours a week, which is difficult on her children, but what choice does she have? She is not on welfare. This, finally is just a bit more than she can handle alone. I am writing to all of you to ask if you would like to help. Maybe you are in a position to help a little, maybe a lot. So many of us hear sad stories on the news and don’t know how to help. Here’s a little guy who I know, and we can touch his life. I know whatever we collect will go directly to paying her rent, heat, food and car. Money should not be her primary worry at this most heart breaking time.”

Our Centerville club heard about this sad story and decided to give the Christmas jar money to this sick child. The question is “how do we get enough money into a jar?” Just our small change would never amount to much. So the club did crazy things, having members pay for chocolates in crystal dishes, bought from rummage sales. Raffling off bottles of champagne with glasses, signed by the District Governor of our district from two years ago. Giving a dinner for $100
a person which was attended by 16 people.

We wrote the counselor our good news telling
her that we would be able to pay at least for
one month “less problems” for the family. We
received a note back which said:

“OH MY GOSH!!! This is so exiting. You brought
a tear to my eye! THANK YOUR CLUB. I hope
you all know you are the embodiment of the
Christmas spirit! There are no words to express
how much this will help this family. Blessing to
you all.”

Now WHAT exactly is a Christmas jar? Just a jar
where we saved money in, but the story started
with the “Christmas Jars” book written by Jason
Wright. Money is given anonymously to people
in need and the story of this sick young boy fits
the purpose of the Christmas jar (“help without
being rewarded”) perfectly.

So some “elves” got together having great fun
and bringing three jars filled with money to
the home of the sick boy. They rang the bell
and ran away, but made sure that the door was
opened and the jars taken in. Then we received
an e-mail with a story submitted by a lady from
Centerville and this is what she wrote:

“My Christmas miracle was the Christmas jars
received on my front porch two nights ago
from an anonymous Christmas angel! I am a
single mother of 4 children and in October my
youngest son was diagnosed with a very rare, life
threatening disease called Dock-8-Mutation.
The only treatment currently being tried for these
patients is a bone marrow transplant. Due to
the many appointments and with needing to be
home more with my children I have been unable
to work much these past few months. When I
opened the door and saw these jars and the book
“Christmas Jars”, me and my son broke down
and cried. We were so touched! My youngest son
said while in tears ‘mommy people really love me
and they are helping me.’ The Christmas jars are
a true Christmas miracle and we are so grateful.
The Centerville community has been so wonderful
to me and my family during this difficult time.
The community is beyond amazing! Thanks again
for bringing cheer and joy to our hearts. We are so
grateful.”

The Centerville Rotary is a relatively small club
with 56 members, but together we were able to
contribute together a total of $3,600 for this
sick boy who now feels so much loved. Isn’t this
what Rotary is all about?

“SERVICE ABOVE SELF”

Rotary’s early emblem was a simple wagon wheel (in motion with dust). It was
designed in 1905 by Montague M. Bear, a member of the Rotary Club of Chicago
who was an engraver.

He designed the emblem to represent
both civilization and movement.
Most of the early Rotary clubs
adopted the wheel in one form or
another. The present emblem, 24
cogs and six spokes, was adopted in
1924. A keyway was added to signify usefulness.
An official description of the emblem was
adopted at the 1929 International Convention.

The world’s first service club, the
Rotary Club of Chicago, was formed
on February 23, 1905 by Paul P.
Harris, an attorney who wished to
capture in a professional club the
same friendly spirit he had felt in
the small towns of his youth. The Rotary name
derived from the early practice of rotating
meetings among members’ offices. Rotary’s
popularity spread, and within a decade, clubs

ABOVE: Christmas Jars written by Jason Wright.

BELOW: Christmas jars and book.

ABOVE: The first four Rotarians: Silvester
Schiale, Paul P. Harris, Hiram Shorey,
and Gustavus Loehr.

ABOVE: Flag from the Rotary Club of Indianapolis.

LEFT: Paul Harris, age 28, soon after he started
practicing law in Chicago in 1896.

ABOVE: The first 40 years of Rotary Club of
Centerville.
were chartered from San Francisco to New York to Winnipeg, Canada. By 1921, Rotary clubs had been formed on six continents. The organization formally adopted the name “Rotary International” a year later.

As Rotary grew, its mission expanded beyond serving club members’ professional and social interests. Rotarians began pooling their resources and contributing their talents to help serve communities in need. The organization’s dedication to this ideal is best expressed in its motto: Service Above Self. By 1925, Rotary had grown to 200 clubs with more than 20,000 members. The organization’s distinguished reputation attracted presidents, prime ministers, and a host of other luminaries to its ranks — among them author Thomas Mann, diplomat Carlos P. Romulo, humanitarian Albert Schweitzer, and composer Jean Sibelius.

During World War II, many clubs were forced to disband, while others stepped up their service efforts to provide emergency relief to victims of the war. In 1942, looking ahead to the postwar era, Rotarians called for a conference to promote international educational and cultural exchanges. This event inspired the founding of UNESCO. In 1945, 49 Rotary club members served in 29 delegations to the UN Charter Conference. Rotary still actively participates in UN conferences by sending observers to major meetings and covering the United Nations in its publications. “Few there are who do not recognize the good work which is done by Rotary clubs throughout the free world,” former Prime Minister Winston Churchill of Great Britain once declared.

After the collapse of the Berlin Wall and the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Rotary clubs were formed or re-established throughout Central and Eastern Europe. The first Russian Rotary club was chartered in 1990, and the organization underwent a growth spurt for the next several years.

In 1985 Rotary decided to dedicate itself towards the eradication of poliomyelitis (“polio”) a crippling, devastating and deadly disease which had cost tens of thousands of children their lives and in addition had crippled hundreds of thousands around the world. With many partners such as the CDC, WHO and the Gates Foundation, in 2012 RI has almost eradicated polio around the world. (See polio article on page 70)

As it approached the 21st century, Rotary worked to meet society’s changing needs, expanding its service efforts to address such pressing issues as environmental degradation, illiteracy, world hunger, and children at risk. The seven priorities of Rotary International are:

1. Eradicate polio.
2. Advance the internal and external recognition and public image of Rotary.
3. Increase Rotary’s capacity to provide service to others.
4. Expand membership globally in both numbers and quality.
5. Emphasize Rotary’s unique vocational service commitment.
6. Optimize the use and development of leadership talents within RI.
7. Fully implement the strategic planning process to ensure continuity and consistency throughout the organization.

Today, 2 million Rotarians belong to over 33,000 Rotary clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas.

ROTARY’S GUIDING PRINCIPLES
The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

FIRST. The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
SECOND. High ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying of each Rotarian’s occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
THIRD. The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian’s personal, business, and community life;
FOURTH. The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.
THE STORY OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

CENTREVILLE ROTARY CLUB

In 1917, RI President Arch C. Klumph proposed that an endowment be set up “for the purpose of doing good in the world.”

In 1928, when the endowment fund had grown to more than $5,000, it was renamed as “The Rotary Foundation”, and it became a distinct entity within Rotary International. Five Trustees, including Klumph, were appointed to “hold, invest, manage, and administer all of its property...as a single trust, for the furtherance of the purposes of RI.” Two years later, the Foundation made its first grant of $500 to the International Society for Crippled Children. The organization, created by Rotarian Edgar F. “Daddy” Allen, later grew into the Easter Seals.

The Great Depression and World War II both impeded the Foundation’s growth. However, the need for lasting world peace generated great postwar interest in its development. After Rotary’s founder, Paul P. Harris, died in 1947, contributions began pouring into the Foundation. That year, the first property...as a single trust, for the furtherance of the purposes of RI.” Two years later, the Foundation made its first grant of $500 to the International Society for Crippled Children. The organization, created by Rotarian Edgar F. “Daddy” Allen, later grew into the Easter Seals.

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A BIT OF OUR HISTORY

THE ORIGINAL CHARTER DOCUMENT

CENTERVILLE ROTARY CLUB
A BIT OF OUR HISTORY

CENTERVILLE ROTARY CLUB

BRIEF VIEW OF SOME FIRST YEARS OF THE CLUB.

1972 – 2012

IN VERSALY AND CELEBRATING 25TH ANNIVERSARY.

INSTALLATION CEREMONY

CENTERVILLE ROTARY CLUB

THE ROTARY INTERNATIONAL THEME 1995-96

INVITATION FOR THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY.

CENTERVILLE ROTARY CLUB

1972 – 2012

40 YEARS CENTERVILLE ROTARY CLUB

A BIT OF OUR HISTORY

CONGRATULATIONS

WHEREAS, Rotary International, an organization of service clubs known as Rotary Clubs are located all over the world. There are over 1.2 million members worldwide; 33,000 clubs of which 52 clubs are in Southwest Ohio; and

WHEREAS, Rotary International is the largest private provider of international scholarships and gives out over 1,000 Ambassadorial Scholarships every year which enable students to study abroad for a year, as well as serve as cultural ambassadors; and

WHEREAS, This year marks the 104th Anniversary of Rotary International; and

WHEREAS, The Centerville Rotary Club has been involved with many local community projects such as granting of annual college scholarships to area students, funding of student and adult international exchanges, the construction of the gazebo at Benham’s Grove, and recently the new picnic shelter at the Oak Grove Park.

NOW THEREFORE, I, C. Mark Kingsseed, Mayor of the City of Centerville, on behalf of the City Council and all residents, do hereby extend sincere congratulations to Rotary International on this 104th Anniversary and urge all citizens to be cognizant of the influence for good being accomplished by Rotary Clubs, working within the true spirit of their motto “Service Above Self”.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Centerville, Ohio, to become affixed this 19th day of February, 2009.

C. Mark Kingsseed
C. MARK KINGSEED, MAYOR