**Rotary Club of Richfield**

**March 5, 2015**

**To: Richfield Rotarians**

**From: Steve Jedlund, Club Foundation Chair**

Re: **Combined Pledge Drive – The Rotary (International) Foundation and Richfield Rotary Foundation**

**The Rotary Foundation – Rotary International**

On January 8, I was fortunate to hear R.I. President Gary Huang speak to Rotary members from Districts 5950 and 5960 at the St. Paul Hotel. President Huang encouraged individuals and clubs to support the work of Rotary International through our contributions to The Rotary Foundation, saying “When you make a donation, you will be a part of every good thing that TRF does to make a world that is happier, healthier, and better than it was before.”

On a personal level, I was especially moved by President Huang’s example of TRF’s commitment to eradicate polio through the Polio Plus initiative. Huang noted, “Polio Plus immunizes one child at a time.” However, as number of vaccinated children has grown, polio has been eradicated in all but three countries. Huang reported, “There were only 300 cases of polio last year, and we are on track to see a polio-free world by 2018.”

One stunning number has stayed with me as I have thought about my Rotary commitments for this year. That number is 272 - the number of Polio Plus aid workers killed in Pakistan while trying to immunize children from this terrible disease. In my mind, a pledge of $272 or more to TRF would be a worthy tribute to each aid worker killed.

**Richfield Rotary Foundation**

In addition to seeking club member support for TRF, this combined campaign also seeks support for our own Richfield Rotary Foundation, to support charitable projects and activities of the Richfield Rotary Club. As our club approaches its 65th anniversary, a gift to the Richfield Rotary Foundation will help our club continue its legacy of service to the Richfield community.

**Every gift makes a difference**

President Huang based this year’s Rotary theme, "Light up Rotary,” on Confucius’ teaching that, while there are many problems in the world, nothing will change if we do nothing to change it.   Huang stated, “If we multiply our efforts across the world, together we can make a difference.   Moving a mountain begins with moving a small stone.” Our goal is for every Richfield Rotarian make a pledge, so that our collective light will shine, both locally and globally.

A pledge Form is attached. If you have any questions concerns or ideas about your pledge, please call Steve Jedlund at 612-756-1544.

**LIGHT UP ROTARY AND LET OUR LIGHT SHINE, ONE GIFT AT A TIME**