

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Club Calendar

November 10 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm
Nihad Kaibni - Classification Talk
November 12 - 8am GROW Membership Seminar
Laurel Holiday Inn
November 17 - 2:15pm -
Dictionary Project - Poolesville
November 17 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm
Andrea Sawyer, Wounded Warrior Project
November 21 - 2:30pm - Dictionary Project
Bells Mill
November 24 - Thanksgiving - No meeting.
November 28 - 1:30pm - Dictionary Project
Hebrew Academy
December 1 - 6:30pm - Service Project at Manna
December 8 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm
Rotary Scholar Stephanie Glinuer
December 15 - 6:30pm -
Meeting - Normandie Farm
December 22- 6:30pm-
Holiday Party - Normandie Farm



The Potomac-Bethesda Rotary food sorting team at the Manna Food Center service project on November 3. [L-R] Noel Howard, Todd Nitkin, Bob Nelson, Hari Viswanathan and wife Swapna, Jason Hamel.



[Above] Alan Grant distributed dictionaries to third graders at Wayside Elementary School in Potomac on November 4. Dictionaries have been distributed to five schools so far this year with three more to go.

Join Alan for the wonderful service project.

[Right] Bob Nelson gives a dictionary to Principal Lakeisha Lashley.



President Chinyere presents a Rotary mug to States Attorney John McCarthy. John left the courtroom of the Lululemon murder trial at 5:30pm to be our special guest speaker for the meeting on October 27. His office handles 30,000 cases per year. Thanks so much to Phil Meade for arranging this very timely topic.



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[Above] Jason Hamel instructs the students at Wayside Elementary in how to utilize their new dictionaries.

[Right] Alan Grant with Wayside Principal Lakeisha Lashley.



[Below] Hari jumps into the big blue bin to tackle the sorting task at Manna Food Center.



[Above] October 27 meeting guests included Robert Elliott from the Victim's Rights Foundation, Richard and Karen Thornell and John McCarthy's associate, Kim. [Below] Jason Hamel presents the engraved Rotarian of the Year cup to Bob Nelson.



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Rotary, UN Celebrate Special Relationship

By Ryan Hyland RI News - 9 November 2011



Michel P. Jazzar, RI representative to the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, and Richard S. Carson, RI representative to the Organization of American States, confer between panel presentations during Rotary-UN Day, 5 November in New York City. Both spoke on an RI representatives panel. Other panels focused on health, water, literacy, and youth. Rotary Images/Alyce Henson

More than 1,000 Rotarians, UN officials, Rotary youth program participants, and guests celebrated the special relationship between Rotary and the United Nations on 5 November.

Rotary-UN Day, held annually at United Nations headquarters in New York City, included panels on health, water, and literacy, highlighting Rotarian projects that advance the goals of the UN and improve lives around the world.

Kiyo Akasaka, UN undersecretary-general for communications and public information, commended Rotary for its ongoing collaboration with the United Nations to improve the health of children worldwide, and for its contribution to polio eradication.

"Our shared vision for a safer and better world is what brings us together here today," Akasaka said. "It's your model of Service Above Self and your sterling results in improving health that makes Rotary one of the most important partners of the UN."

Peace and justice

Both organizations are striving to create a more peaceful and just world, noted RI President-elect Sakuji Tanaka.

"If you were to seek the one idea, the one goal that is at the core of Rotary, you would find the same goal that you find in the charter of the UN: to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbors," Tanaka said.

Timothy E. Wirth, president of the United Nations Foundation and Better World Fund, stressed the importance of partnerships.

"Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon recognizes that every problem the UN faces cannot be [solved] by the UN alone," he said, adding that Rotary's "understanding and commitment to partnerships will make so many of these goals we share possible."

Partnerships

Rotary is committed to partnering with organizations like the UN, said John Hewko, RI general secretary.

"Rotary is learning by experience that it can accomplish more in concert with others than it might on its own. Working together multiplies our success: one plus one equals three," Hewko said. "This new formula provides a unique opportunity to enhance humanitarian service, which is what Rotary is all about. It helps build understanding and peace - the mission of Rotary and the UN."

Zulfiqar A. Bhutta, head of the Division of Women and Child Health at Aga Khan University, discussed the strategic partnership between the university and Rotary, and the challenges of promoting maternal and child health in developing countries in Africa and parts of Asia.

More than 300,000 women die each year from complications related to pregnancy and childbirth, Bhutta said. "Our biggest challenge is reaching these poor women, families, and infants to give them adequate health care."

"I believe we are at the beginning of the journey with Rotary International to improve child and maternal health in the hardest-to-reach places in Central and South Asia and Africa," he added.

Other panelists during Rotary-UN Day included Jacob Kumaresan, executive director of the World Health Organization, New York; Paul Edwards, senior adviser for UNICEF on water, sanitation, and hygiene; Ginny Wolfe, senior director of U.S. communications for the ONE Campaign; Philippe Kridelka, director of

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UNESCO, New York; and Ron Denham, chair of the Water and Sanitation Rotarian Action Group.

Rotary, which has a 66-year history with the UN, holds the highest consultative status offered to any nongovernmental organization by the Economic and Social Council, which oversees many UN agencies.

Five Reasons To Support The Rotary Foundation

By Antoinette Tuscano RI News – 8 November 2011

A child works on his studies thanks to books donated through a Rotary project. By contributing to the Foundation, you support basic education and literacy. Rotary Images/Monika Lozinska-Lee



There are as many reasons to support The Rotary Foundation as there are ways to do good in the world.

By donating to the Foundation, you support Rotary's six areas of focus, which help advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty. Contributions to the Every Rotarian, Every Year (EREY) initiative, are the primary source of funding for Foundation programs. By giving US\$100 a year through EREY, you become a Rotary Foundation Sustaining Member.

Here are a few ways your contributions are changing lives around the world.

5. Fighting hunger

In Romania, children have eggs, milk, and meat because of a Foundation grant that enables local farmers to buy animal feed, packaging materials, and other supplies. The farmers agree to donate a portion of their products to children's hospitals, schools, and orphanages.

In Alaska, USA, the Rotary Club of Anchorage East is also fighting hunger by distributing food to low-income families through a mobile food pantry.

Projects such as these address two areas of focus: maternal and child health and economic and community development.

4. Reducing child mortality

The Rotary clubs of Jaela-Kandana, Western Province, Sri Lanka, and Madras Northwest, Tamil Nadu, India, are helping to reduce child mortality by providing improved sanitation facilities for 15 families in a small community in Sri Lanka. With a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant, the clubs have built 14 toilets, helping to prevent the spread of diarrhea-causing diseases related to poor sanitation.

According to the World Health Organization, 1.8 million children die of diarrhea every year, making it the second leading cause of death among children under five. Proper sanitation can reduce the child mortality rate in many communities by more than 30 percent. Water and sanitation is one of the areas of focus.

3. Promoting peace and conflict resolution

Watching civil war tear apart his homeland of Côte d'Ivoire instilled in Rotary Peace Fellow Kouame Remi

Oussou a passion to resolve conflict.

He is now working for the United Nations Development Programme in the Central African Republic, a country that weathered periodic internal fighting before a comprehensive peace accord went into effect in 2007. Rotary Peace Fellows are leaders in promoting national and international cooperation, peace, and conflict resolution. Help support the Rotary Peace Centers and read a discussion of what the program has meant to a group of peace fellows. The efforts of Oussou and Rotary Peace Fellows advance the peace and conflict prevention/resolution area of focus.

2. Basic education and literacy

A literacy project sponsored by Rotarians in South Africa and Rhode Island, USA, in conjunction with the International Reading Association and Operation Upgrade, is teaching adults in the rural community of KwaNibela, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, to read and

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write. These skills will help them fight poverty in their community.

Through the effort, nearly 600 adults are attending literacy classes taught by instructors trained with help from Operation Upgrade, which specializes in adult basic education. Funding from The Rotary Foundation provided classroom books.

1. Eradicating polio

Around the world, Rotarians are going the distance -- participating in walkathons, climbing mountains, cycling, even circumnavigating a continent in rubber dinghies, among other fundraisers -- to help Rotary rid the world of polio.

Since Rotary launched its PolioPlus program in 1985, eradicating the disease has become the organization's top priority. End Polio Now and help fulfill Rotary's promise to the world.

Major Online Giving Initiative A Boost For Polio Eradication

RI News – 7 November 2011

Rotarians generously made online contributions of more than US\$2.57 million to PolioPlus during the week of 24-28 October, in observance of World Polio Day on 24 October. The Rotary Foundation offered double Paul Harris Fellow recognition points for online contributions of \$100 or more.

Rotarians were required to be registered on the Member Access Portal before making a contribution. Changes to the Foundation's online contribution system enabled donors for the first time to contribute in 12 different currencies. Contributions were received from Rotarians in 105 countries; the top five giving countries were the United States, Brazil, Canada, Mexico, and the Philippines.

Rotarians who registered on Member Access between 14 September and 14 October were eligible to win 1,000 extra Foundation recognition points through a

special drawing. The winner was a Rotarian in Nepal who has chosen to remain anonymous.

As of 31 October, Rotarians have raised \$194 million for Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge in support of polio eradication.

RI Convention Promises Inspiring Speakers, Great Value
By Maureen Vaught RI News – 3 November 2011

Muhammad Yunus (top), founder of the Grameen Bank, and Hugh Evans (bottom), cofounder and CEO of the Global Poverty Project, will be speakers at the 2012 RI Convention in Bangkok, Thailand, 6-9 May.

Register for the 2012 RI Convention by 1 December and enjoy the lowest registration rates in a decade.

Rotary's 103rd convention in Bangkok, Thailand, 6-9 May, will offer attendees an unforgettable experience in the Land of a Thousand Smiles. Bangkok is a city filled with exotic temples, unique museums, and ancient attractions. The RI Convention

also promises great speakers, including two individuals who have spent their lives promoting economic and community development, one of Rotary's areas of focus.

Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus will be a keynote speaker Monday, 7 May. Yunus is the founder of Grameen Bank, which provides small loans to entrepreneurs, particularly women, in impoverished communities.

Also speaking on 7 May will be Hugh Evans, cofounder and CEO of the Global Poverty Project, an organization dedicated to motivating people to take action to end extreme poverty. The Global Poverty Project recently added polio eradication to its list of campaigns.



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A subsidy from the Thai government has helped make the low registration rates possible. Register for the Bangkok convention by 1 December and you and your spouse or partner will pay just US\$160 each to attend. Children ages 5-18 are only \$10 each. Rotaractors and Rotary Foundation alumni can attend for \$50, while Interactors and Rotary Youth Exchange students pay just \$10.

United Airlines and its Star Alliance partners are offering travel discounts to Bangkok for Rotarians. Fly economy and save as much as 15 percent, or travel business class for a 20 percent savings (some exceptions may apply).

Microfinance pioneer

Muhammad Yunus was an economics professor at the University of Chittagong in Bangladesh when he began transforming lives through microcredit. What began as personal microloans to poor women in nearby villages grew into Grameen Bank, which today has more than 2,500 branches throughout the country. Since 1983, the bank has helped launch or expand the businesses of more than 8.34 million borrowers – 97 percent of them women.

What makes Grameen Bank even more impressive is its nearly 97 percent repayment rate – a recovery rate higher than any other banking system. Grameen social business models can be found in 58 countries, including Canada, France, Norway, the Netherlands, and the United States.

In October 2006, Yunus and Grameen Bank were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts to foster economic and social development from the bottom up. Yunus chairs the Yunus Centre, which was formed to help disseminate information and promote the Grameen model.

Ending poverty, hunger, and polio

Hugh Evans began his humanitarian work at age 14, traveling to the Philippines from his home in Australia as an ambassador for World Vision. He founded the Australia-based Oaktree Foundation, a youth-run aid organization that aims to end global poverty, and in 2004 was named Young Australian of the Year.

The Global Poverty Project formally launched in 2008. Using a combination of advocacy campaigns and

education, the organization seeks to motivate the public to halve poverty and hunger by 2015, a target of the UN Millennium Development Goals.

Recently, the Global Poverty Project has set its sights on another goal of particular importance to Rotarians: ending polio. The organization is conducting an online petition drive to encourage world leaders to fully fund polio eradication, and held an End of Polio Concert on 28 October in Perth, Australia.

End Polio Now

After 20 years of hard work, Rotary and its partners are on the brink of eradicating this

tenacious disease, but a strong push is needed now to root it out once and for all. It is a window of opportunity of historic proportions.

Your contribution will help Rotary raise \$200 million to match \$355 million in challenge grants received from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The resulting \$555 million will directly support immunization campaigns in developing countries, where polio continues to infect and paralyze children, robbing them of their futures and compounding the hardships faced by their families.

As long as polio threatens even one child anywhere in the world, children everywhere remain at risk. The stakes are that high.

