



The
Rotary
Foundation



District 9999 Rotary Foundation Newsletter – March 2025

Welcome to the March 2025 D9999 Foundation Newsletter!

Welcome to the second D9999 Rotary Foundation Newsletter for 2025 – and isn't our Rotary year speeding by! Your District Foundation Committee uses this two-monthly Newsletter to keep Club Presidents and Foundation Chairs up to date with information they need to know and to circulate news of Foundation activities throughout the District. We'll be happy to publish stories and photos of any Foundation fundraising or District Grants activities in your Clubs, so please send them to me at joan.kiernan@queenstownnz.net.

And if you would like a personal visit or a Zoom call to your Club to talk about the Foundation, just let us know – as well as myself, there are suitably qualified people throughout the District who will be happy to oblige.

District Grants update

We are just in the final stages of carrying out a second – obviously much smaller than the first – District Grants round so Clubs will hear the outcome of your applications shortly. We have about \$10k to spend, and we expect to spend pretty much all of it, funding an additional seven smaller projects which we expect to be completed in the next few months.

Polio Plus – 3 cases in Pakistan in January/February 2025

Rotarians will be aware that the World Health Organisation (WHO) is one of the key partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), which is the organisation that

carries out the actual work of Polio eradication. You will also have read about the withdrawal of the US from the WHO, of which it was one of the major funders, and you may be wondering what this means for our ongoing efforts to eradicate Polio.

While this is certainly not good news, it is estimated that the funding shortfall created by the US withdrawal from the WHO will be of the order of about 15% of funds required, and there is a high level of confidence that the money can be found elsewhere. The US's financial obligations cannot be cancelled for a year, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has just recently reaffirmed its commitment to donate US\$500m to the cause. There also seems to be a high level of general international commitment to making sure this is finally done, and an understanding that the remaining obstacles are purely geo-political, not medical or logistical.

Rotary International, as the civil society partner of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, continues to call for steadfast dedication to the effort. "We have overcome every setback through collaboration and unity of purpose that is rare in our fragmented world," said Dr Pierre Hoffmeyer, Rotary International representative to the United Nations in Geneva. "Let us all remain united and unwavering in our commitment to end polio."

We can all do our small part by continuing to raise the US\$50m/year that Rotary has pledged in order to attract the 2:1 match from the Gates Foundation – we can't give up on this now!

Fundraising

Huge thanks to the Rotary Clubs of Alexandra, Blenheim, Cromwell, Linwood-Woolston, Invercargill, Invercargill East, Milton and Winton who have made contributions to the Foundation and/or PolioPlus since the last Newsletter. Please remember to get your contributions in well before the end of the year – ideally before April 30th - so that they can be processed and credited correctly.

All Clubs have received this year's Commitment Notes politely suggesting donations of \$125/member for Foundation and \$25/member for Polio Plus. Please let me know if your Club hasn't, or if you don't know what this is!

We are also grateful to our loyal Centurion Programme and Paul Harris Society members. We look forward to receiving contributions from many more Clubs in the coming months.

Global Grants

The latest Global Grant to which your District Foundation Committee has allocated some of D9999's DDF (US\$10,000) is "Empowering Little Hearts: Equipping the Pediatric Cardiac Care Center" at Lady Ridgeway Hospital, Colombo. This project was brought to our attention by the Rotary Club of Lincoln, who have contributed US\$7,000.

The primary objective of this project – which is a part of a much bigger hospital development project - is to purchase state-of-the-art medical equipment for the new pediatric cardiac care center at Lady Ridgeway Hospital (LRH). This will enhance the hospital's capacity to provide timely and effective surgical interventions for children with congenital heart defects.

The hospital is centrally located in Borella, a densely populated area that serves as a hub for health services in the country. Due to its location, LRH is accessible to families across Sri Lanka, including those from rural and underserved areas who travel long distances seeking specialized care.

Cardiac health services, particularly pediatric care, are in short supply across Sri Lanka. LRH is the only dedicated pediatric hospital with a specialized unit for cardiac care. Despite its capacity, the hospital struggles to meet the demand for life-saving heart surgeries and procedures due to a lack of advanced medical equipment and resources. As a result, thousands of children with congenital heart defects are on waiting lists, with many at risk of not receiving timely treatment.

This project application is now complete and will shortly be submitted for Rotary Foundation approval.

Rotary Foundation Bequest Society - Your Legacy – Rotary's Promise

The Rotary Foundation transforms your gifts into service projects that change lives both close to home and around the world. When you give to The Rotary Foundation, you fuel our service projects - projects that eradicate polio, promote peace, and improve developing communities. With your help, we can make lives better in your community and around the world.

Have you considered making a donation to the Rotary Foundation in your will?

When you plan a gift to Rotary through your estate or financial plans, you will continue a 100-year tradition of uniting leaders from all continents, cultures and industries for the common good. It is easier than you might think.

PDG Trish Boyle is the person responsible in District 9999 for working with Rotarians to consider a bequest in their will, and the District 9999 Foundation Committee would encourage all Rotarians to consider this.

Please see the brochure attached to this update for more information.

Wouldn't it be great if we could have at least 10 Rotarians commit money in their will this Rotary year by the 30 June! Get in touch –

Any comments or questions about the Rotary Foundation welcome, to District Rotary Foundation Chair Joan Kiernan at joan.kiernan@queenstownnz.net or on 021 356 265.

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