

For Immediate Release:

Foundation Gala Events Planner – Mary-Catherine: mcgobedo@gmail.com

Registration: Chas Wilson: cwilson3169@yahoo.com

District 5240 Foundation Gala Celebrates the Rotary Foundation and Honors Local Rotary Districts

Changing Lives Both Close to Home and Around the World

If service is the beating heart of Rotary, then the Rotary Foundation is its very lifeblood. It is in and through the Foundation that we can support projects locally and throughout the world. It is through the Foundation that Rotary is made real in the lives of millions: working for peace, supporting clean water and sanitation projects, providing for maternal and child health programs.

This is all a result of Rotarians throughout the world generously sharing their resources. Since it was founded more than 100 years ago, the Foundation has spent more than \$4 billion on life-changing, sustainable projects.

Rotary District 5240 will be having their annual Foundation Gala on **Saturday, January 11, 2020 at Sherwood Country Club, Westlake Village**. This formal – black tie evening - costs \$125 per person and includes a no-host Cocktail Reception and dinner. Register today online at: <http://bit.ly/D5240Gala>

Rotarians in District 5240 are proud of their Foundation and the work that is done throughout the world and will be celebrating the Rotary Foundation and 5240 District's contributions and achievements.

You won't want to miss our **Keynote Speaker**, past Rotary International President **K.R. Ravindran**.

K.R. "Ravi" Ravindran, a business leader and a member of the Rotary Club of Colombo, Sri Lanka, became the 105th president of Rotary International in 2015-2016. As world President of Rotary, he met with many Heads of States and with Pope Francis and UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon. He received the key to many cities around the world, been honored with a Doctorate by the University of Korea, and has had a postage stamp with his profile released

There are many people in Rotary that have made a difference. But past Rotary International President K.R. Ravindran, truly has spent his life "making things happen."

- Negotiating Days of Tranquility during the Sri Lankan civil war so that health workers could administer drops of polio vaccines.
- Rebuilding 23 tsunami-damaged schools for 14,000 children.

One of the reasons he serves Rotary so passionately is that not only has he been helped by so many people throughout his life, but he feels that Rotary is a way to reciprocate and help others. When he was 11, his mom only 30, contracted the polio virus and immediately had paralysis. She was told that her chances of walking, or even surviving without a ventilator were slim. Ravindran's grandfather, a Rotary member, gathered his fellow members and together they raised the money and the transportation that was needed and helped clear the red tape at the time in Sri Lanka to have ventilator flown in. His mother spent year and half in a hospital bed. Fifty-three years ago, his mother's life was possibly one of the very first to be saved from polio by Rotarians and since then we have saved millions of lives! Rotary club members worldwide have contributed more than US \$1.4 billion and countless volunteer hours to the polio eradication effort.

For Ravindran, paying it forward isn't a fad, it's a way of life. His theme for his Rotary year was, *Be a Gift to the World*, also summarized his personal philosophy.

As you can clearly see, K.R. Ravindran's life has been molded by family, country, and Rotary.

Rotarians make lives better in our community and around the world and Rotary – a global network of 1.2 million volunteers -- dedicated to tackling the world's most pressing humanitarian challenges.

###