

# Keynote Speaker

## Past Rotary International President K.R. Ravindran



K.R. “Ravi” Ravindran was the first Sri Lankan to be RI President. 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

A Rotarian since 1974, Ravindran has served Rotary as a director and treasurer of RI and as a trustee of The Rotary Foundation. He has also served as an International Assembly group discussion leader, district governor, Council on Legislation representative, and zone institute chair.

Ravindran holds a degree in commerce and is founder and CEO of Printcare PLC, a publicly listed company and global leader in the tea packaging industry. Printcare is the winner of national and international awards of excellence. Ravindran has been a featured speaker at several international print and

packaging forums.

He was the first President of the Sri Lanka Anti-Narcotics, which today is the leading agency fighting drug addiction in Sri Lanka

As his country’s PolioPlus chair, Ravindran headed a task force with members from the government, UNICEF, and Rotary and worked closely with UNICEF to negotiate a cease-fire with northern militants during National Immunization Days.

There are many people in Rotary that have made a difference. But 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 25 tsunami-damaged schools for 15,000 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. 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 for a ventilator and helped clear the red tape at the time in Sri Lanka to have it 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.

Ravindran is a recipient of The Rotary Foundation’s Citation for Meritorious Service, Distinguished Service Award, and Service Award for a Polio-Free World and will serve as the next Rotary Foundation Chair.

He and his wife Vanathy have been married since 1975, and they have two children