

# ROTARY DISTRICT 5240

## A PEACEBUILDER DISTRICT

### What Is A District 5240 PeaceBuilder Club

District 5240 has made a commitment to be a Rotary Peacebuilder District. We also made a commitment to wage peace wherever we can – in our local communities and in communities around the world.

The district established the Peacebuilder Club program designed to enhance Rotary's mission of *advancing world understanding, goodwill and peace* through the promotion of programs and projects aligning with the six areas of focus of The Rotary Foundation and in particular, **Peace, Conflict Prevention and Conflict Resolution**.

What Is Peace? It is not just an absence of war. We have to think of the root causes of violence and conflict in the world:

- Constant internal civil wars and oppressive governments create an environment that engenders violence and unrest.
- Extreme poverty creates poor health, sickness, malnutrition, and disease.
- Injustice and inequality cause frustration and lack of trust in institutions.
- Pervasive hopelessness that things will not get better in the future causes civil strife.
- Limited access to clean water, adequate food, shelter, sanitation, and self-determination can and should be corrected.

A District 5240 Peacebuilder Club is a Rotary club that is dedicated to diminishing the root causes of conflict: the need for food, water, shelter, health care, literacy, jobs, and human rights. One that is dedicated to breaking this cycle of devastation and despair, and to helping create an environment of security through providing basic education, clean water, proper sanitation and hygiene, basic health-care and a chance at a decent future.

A Peacebuilder Club uses peace education and peace principles to guide the club's service and development projects.

In many ways, much of what we do as Rotarians to improve the human condition in our communities and internationally, supports peace. When you feed the hungry, improve educational opportunities for everyone or help create a climate for community economic development you are peace building. When you see injustices and assist in removing them, you are peace building. When you reach out a hand to people you don't know, you are peace building.

Your club can become a PeaceBuilder Club this year. Select a club Peace Chair. Hold a club program about Peace. Engage in a local program that promotes peace. Support an international program that supports peace. Report your activities to the district. Go to the [District 5240 Peace Page](#) on the District website for PeaceBuilder Club program qualifications and information or contact District 5240 Peacebuilder Club Chair PDG Nick Frankle (email: [nickdg1617@earthlink.net](mailto:nickdg1617@earthlink.net))

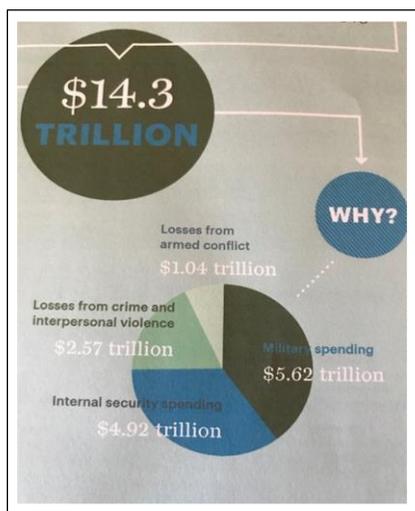
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### Why Become a Peace Builder Club?

Rotary International has embarked on an initiative to promote Peace throughout the world. This effort actually started some years ago with the sponsorship of Peace Fellowships for studies in conflict resolution at six universities around the world, and today there are over 1000 Peace Fellows.

More recently District 5240 introduced the concept of Peace Builder Clubs to spread the pursuit of peaceful solutions both internationally with our global grants and within our communities through our club programs. You might wonder why Rotary has chosen the new emphasis peace building? Because it makes good **CENT\$!**



Everyone is in favor of peace, but what does that mean to you personally? Well, the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), with whom RI has recently formed a partnership, has answers to that question.

**Q: What does the presence of violence in the world cost?**

**A: \$5.40 per day, per person globally, \$1,953 annually! That is \$14.3 trillion or 12.6% of the world GDP. That is what the lack of peace costs each and every one of us.**

The **Global Peace Index 2017**

([http://visionofhumanity.org/app/uploads/2017/06/GPI17-](http://visionofhumanity.org/app/uploads/2017/06/GPI17-Report.pdf)

**Report.pdf**) outlines how violence and conflict has changed around the world over the past year and what the trend has been over a

period of years. The results of the 2017 GPI find that the global level of peace has slightly improved this year by 0.28 per cent, with 93 countries improving, while 68 countries deteriorated.

Their research provides data that show the economic impact of both the lack of peace but also the positive value of promoting peace in the world. The report is extensive as it rates the peace status by region and by country. The least peaceful countries in the world disproportionately suffer economically from levels of violence they experience. The average cost of violence was equivalent to 37% of GDP in the ten least peaceful countries, compared to only 3% in the ten most peaceful.

**Why is the cost so high?** All together the countries of the world spend \$5.62 trillion on military spending; \$4.92 trillion on internal security spending; losses from crime and interpersonal violence costs \$2.57 trillion; and losses from armed conflict adds another \$1.04 trillion. If the world decreased violence by only 10%, there would be \$1.43 trillion in spare economic resources and activity generated that could be used in positive productive ways. But there is hope because the report shows that **every dollar spent on peace building returns \$16** in reduction to the global economic impact of violence.

Visit the [District 5240 Peace Page](#) on the District website for more information on how and the Rotarians in your club can wage peace.