



## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Some of us will recall fondly the Ambassadorial Scholarships that used to be a program of The Rotary Foundation. Tom Homan of the Duluth 25 Rotary Club, who served our District as Scholarship Chair, sent the District Office a blurb from Leah Ragotzke, the Duluthian who graduated from the University of MN in Middle East studies and was nominated by Duluth 25 for an Ambassadorial Scholarship, the last such group in that program.

Leah pursued studies at the University of Jordan in Amman for two years and earned an MA degree. She put her Arabic language skills to good use working with the Syrian refugees in Jordan. She currently resides in Washington, D.C. While in Jordan, she was invited to speak at Rotary Clubs throughout the country. She hopes to join the Foreign Service at the US State Department for a career working at embassies abroad. Her area of focus would be the Middle East. Enjoy the note from Leah to Tom Homan of Duluth 25.

“Hi Tom!

Here is a brief overview of my role within DAI. DAI is an international development company that has implemented projects in over 150 countries. They focus on solving social and economic development problems worldwide. There are around 350 corporate employees and I work within the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) and Afghanistan department, which oversees implementation of projects in countries like Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Morocco and Afghanistan, among others. I help with the implementation of two separate projects – one in Jordan and one in Afghanistan. The Jordan project is a workforce development project aimed at reducing the high levels of unemployment, especially among youth and women. The Afghanistan project is a women’s empowerment project that aims to increase the presence and effectiveness of women in civil society. It is part of the USAID PROMOTE program, which aims at “advancing opportunities for Afghan women who can become political, private sector and civil society leaders,” and is the largest women’s empowerment program in USAID history. I help with a wide range of activities, such as compliance, field staff support, financial overview, donor communication, expat travel logistics, and other project support. Every day has new tasks that make sure our projects are being implemented to impact the most beneficiaries possible in the most efficient way, while also complying with the donor’s (in these two projects cases: USAID) rules and regulations.

Please let me know if you would like any further information.

Best,  
Leah”