

This past month has been pretty special. Bonnie and I attended the Goodwill meetings in Winnipeg. We met new and old friends and learned of the role Rotary has working toward world peace. The fact that Rotary is a non-political and non-denominational organization was reinforced but we have to be learning and talking about politics and religion to understand different cultures and what the roots of conflict are.

At the Rotary Zone 28-29 conference in Cleveland, the birthplace of The Rotary Foundation, we learned of the changing demographics in the world. Successful businesses and organizations have to be “evolutionary” and at times “revolutionary” in order to grow and prosper. In other words, we need to be able to change and sometimes change drastically. We learned of research being done to address the needs and access for modern medicines in the developing world. We heard of the importance of mentors for boys and girls, young men and women, to bring out their potential and in some cases a second chance for success. Also, we learned of the struggles against sexual abuse of women, the fight for women’s equality in parts of the world and the successes of women leadership. All of this is related to one of Rotary’s Six Areas of Focus, Peace and Conflict Resolution.

Our District 5580 was honored with an award for being **#1 in our Zone** for total contributions to PolioPlus in 2015-16. Congratulations to all of you and thank you for keeping the support to end polio in the world a priority. We are close but we are not there yet!

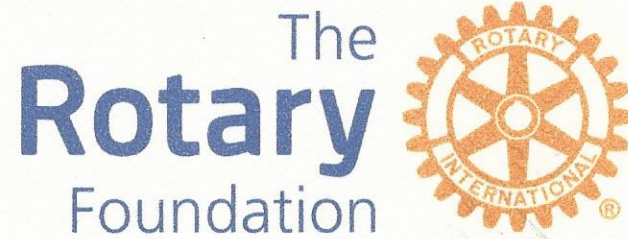
Bonnie and I have now visited 39 of the 66 clubs in our district. Again, we see amazing things you are doing in your communities. An “Encores Concert for a Cause,” in Ashland brings in professional musicians who are local high school graduates, to present a free public concert. Duluth Harbortown has a program to provide kids with disabilities the opportunity to ride horse at a local stable. Grand Rapids Centennial provides a “Pike for Vets” event in which Rotarians catch fish and provide a fish meal for vets at the local Vets hospital. The Superior club honors veterans with a “Ruck March for Veterans”. Detroit Lakes provides eyeglasses and sunglasses to the less fortunate in Jamaica. Bismarck Farwest supports a “Gateway to Science” program that gives kids hands on experience with science. Thief River Falls reads to elementary students on “Read Across America Day”. The East Grand Forks club sends students to the Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA). The Grand Forks AM club (the AM club that now meets in the evening) does a “Pajama Party” to provide new pajamas to women in the abuse shelter. Thank you for all you do!

November is The Rotary Foundation month. This is the time to plan and do special projects to emphasize and support the Rotary Foundation. If you are working toward the presidential citation this is a good opportunity to check on your progress toward Foundation goals. December is Disease Prevention and Treatment month. In your communities this is the time to emphasize the importance of children receiving timely inoculations against childhood diseases and the need for good diet and exercise for a healthy life. And around the world, the importance of clean water for disease prevention.

Thanks to all of you for all you do.

Yours in Rotary Service,

Herb



**Director's Recognition
Total Giving of DDF and Cash to
PolioPlus**

2015-16 Zone 28

1st 5580

\$142,756

2015-16

The
Rotary
Foundation



District 5580

is presented a certificate of appreciation for its generous contribution of District Designate Funds to End Polio Now: Make History Today Campaign. Together, we will fulfill our promise to the children of the world and eradicate polio.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ray Klingensmith".

Ray Klingensmith
Chair, The Rotary Foundation Trustees

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K.R. Ravindran".

K.R. Ravindran
President, Rotary International

