

Brock Earnhardt awarded TRF Distinguished Service Award

Only 42 Rotarians in the world were selected to receive The Rotary Foundation's Distinguished Service award, its highest honor. Brock Earnhardt of the Rotary Club of Davenport was one of the recipients of the honor which "recognizes significant and dedicated service by a Rotarian to promote Foundation programs and thus advance the Foundation's goal of better understanding and friendly relations among people of the world." Recipients must have achieved the TRF Citation of Meritorious Service at least four years prior.



The award was presented virtually at the club's regular meeting on Monday, Aug. 31, 2020 by immediate Past District Governor Erna Morain, Waukee; District Foundation Chair Chris Knapp, Iowa City AM; and District Awards Co-Chairs Bill Koellner, West Liberty and Jacque Andrew, Jefferson. As the chair of the District World Community Service Grant and District Global Grants committees for nearly two decades, Brock presented valuable, insightful and understandable education, encouragement and guidance regarding grant development, writing and successful submission at virtually every District Assembly and later Grant Management Workshops and multiple District Conferences.

The true measure of his effectiveness as a leader in TRF grant training is the result seen in projects developed by clubs. Through this education and his ongoing mentoring, the District and its clubs have generated 95 grants in 12 years totaling over \$5.5 million in benefit to the projects. As the interest of clubs was sparked by his training, Brock actively worked with them to successfully formulate, write, and submit their project grants. Often visiting the sites of grants with clubs as the project was completed.

Not only a grant writer, Brock also worked on the fundraising side as well. He was instrumental in organizing and raising funds for multiple-district and club grants in Colombia for medical equipment and in Nepal for water collection and distribution systems from Rotarians and supportive businesses. He was instrumental in acquiring several Paul Harris Society members to the District who helped support these and other grants.

Brock was a member of a National Immunization Team to India in 2000 which was comprised of Rotarians and two Interactors, all from District 6000. A dual mission of this NID trip was to not only participate in the polio eradication efforts in a number of remote villages but also to discern needs for grants in which the District 6000 could provide leadership. As the first such district only international service mission, it provided a major stimulus to the awareness and commitment of District Rotarians to humanitarian service through matching grants.

Brock's team took those drops to remote villages where other needs could be seen, an important link between polio immunization and furthering TRF's global work. As a result, in the ten years that followed, his club partnered with 29 different Indian Rotary Clubs on grant projects and sponsored 61 humanitarian service projects, in total, in developing countries on four continents.