



Weekly Thoughts on The Rotary Foundation

Educating Rotarians about the work of The Rotary Foundation is one of the most effective tools for gaining and broadening support of our Annual Fund and the **Every Rotarian, Every Year** effort. The *Weekly Thoughts on The Rotary Foundation* is designed to inform our members of the many ways in which we impact the world — there’s always something new and exciting going on in Rotary.

The club president can begin the tradition by opening each meeting with a brief moment on The Rotary Foundation, but consider rotating ownership of the weekly reading among club members. In fact, didn’t Paul Harris have a similar idea about rotating?

This week’s Rotary Foundation Thought is about:

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What is The Rotary Foundation?

The Rotary Foundation is the economic engine for Rotary International. It is a non-profit corporation that is supported solely by voluntary contributions from Rotarians and friends of Rotary who share its vision of a better world. Its sole mission is to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, good will and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education and the alleviation of poverty. We accomplish that through our local and international humanitarian and educational programs.

The founder of The Rotary Foundation, Arch C. Klumph

A member of the Rotary Club of Cleveland, Ohio, USA, Arch C. Klumph served as the RI president in the 1913-14 Rotary year. In 1917, Klumph declared that “we should accept endowments for the purpose of doing good in the world in charitable, educational, and other avenues of community service.” His vision and a contribution of US\$26.50 left over from the RI Convention helped to establish the charitable and humanitarian arm of our organization, The Rotary Foundation.

Due to the hard work and generosity of Rotarians worldwide, The Rotary Foundation has improved lives for nearly 100 years. With ongoing financial support, our Foundation will continue to carry on Klumph’s dream well into our second century of service.

PolioPlus

When Rotary launched the PolioPlus program in 1985, there were more than 350,000 polio cases in over 125 countries. Since 1988, when Rotary began working with its partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative to immunize more than 2 billion children, the incidence of polio has decreased 99 percent. As of 2013, Rotary’s contributions to the global polio eradication effort totaled \$1.2 billion. None of this would be possible if it weren’t for Rotary’s leadership and vision.

What a wonderful legacy we are leaving to the children of the world. Goodbye Polio. Thank you, Rotary.

Every Rotarian, Every Year

Every minute of every day someone’s life is being improved by our Rotary Foundation. Wells are being dug in India, blind children are using Braille typewriters in Brazil, toilets are part of improved sanitation in Sri Lanka, and dental treatment is available to the needy in Nicaragua. In a world where the divide between the haves and have-nots is growing, we as Rotarians must do our part and “do good in the world.”

Contributions from every Rotarian to the Annual Fund every year are critical to making a difference in our world.

District Grants

District Grants allow Rotary clubs to identify, plan, and fund worthy projects in their own communities or internationally. Grants can fund improvements such as kitchen equipment for a food pantry, assistance for after-school programs, dictionaries or encyclopedias for primary school children, or renovations to a playground. The more we contribute to our Foundation's Annual Fund, the more opportunities and funding we will have for such projects.

The Rotary Foundation allows us to "do good in the world" here in our own community, as well as internationally.

A Rotary World Peace Fellow at work on the frontlines

Izabela Pereira, a 2007 graduate of the Rotary Center for International Studies at Universidad del Salvador in Argentina, helped monitor Nicaragua's recent election as part of an Organization of American States (OAS) mission to the country. Izabela says her experience as a Rotary World Peace Fellow and an OAS observer gave her a firsthand understanding of how democracy is being promoted and strengthened in Nicaragua. She has also conducted fieldwork in Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire for the United Nations Development Fund for Women.

Izabela is one of hundreds of Rotary World Peace Fellows who have received the training and field experience necessary to work for lasting peace and stability throughout the world.

The Rotary Foundation

Would you like to know what The Rotary Foundation is all about? Perhaps it can be captured in this Paul Harris statement, "When an individual, a sect, a clique or a nation hates and despises another individual, sect, clique or nation, he or they simply do not know the objects of their hatred. Ignorance is at the bottom of it."

All of our programs such as Vocational Training Teams, scholarships, global grants and district grants are directed at that ignorance. The Rotary Foundation was started "to do good in the world" and the result is to reduce the hatred that Paul Harris spoke about.

When you give to The Rotary Foundation you work towards a more peaceful world.

The Annual Fund

The Annual Fund is the primary source of unrestricted support for the programs of The Rotary Foundation. It funds programs in more than 180 countries on seven

continents. From digging clean water wells for villages in Africa to teaching basic literacy skill to children in Latin America, during any given moment in a day, thousands of Rotarians volunteer their time and expertise to ensure that all contributions given to the Annual Fund are spent wisely on quality Rotary projects.

Only if *Every Rotarian* makes a gift to the Annual Fund *Every Year*, we will be able to continue to do the great work of our Rotary Foundation.

Global Grants

With funding from a Rotary Foundation Global Grant, Rotarians from six countries have worked to fulfill the basic needs of 50 street children in Addis Ababa over two years. The youths also received vocational training in woodworking, metalworking, and bricklaying, which they applied by helping to build 24 latrines for families in need. The host Rotary Club of Addis Ababa Entoto partnered with the Belgian non-profits Caprioolkinderen and Siddartha Development Ethiopia, which have teamed up on similar programs since 2002, providing food, shelter, and basic education to 300 children.

Every Rotarian, Every Year – Nourishing bodies and minds.

Matching people with money for positive results

In the words of Arch Klumph: “Money alone does little good. Individual service is helpless without money. The two together can be a godsend to civilization.” Your financial resources combined with your time, energy and talent is critical to Rotary’s mission. 89% of your contribution goes directly to the programs of The Rotary Foundation while 2% is used for administration and 9% is for fundraising. These percentages are remarkable among charities across the world. This is why The Rotary Foundation gets such high marks from organizations that rank charities, such as Charity Navigator and the Better Business Bureau.

As Rotarians, there is no better place to donate our money. We get to use our own contributions to do good in the world.

Being a Rotary Foundation Sustaining Member

What can you get for US\$100 dollars these days? A pair of shoes, a nice dinner for two or a stove for a needy family in rural Guatemala, A contribution of US\$100 to the Annual Fund will make you a Sustaining Member of The Rotary Foundation but it also provides life-changing opportunities for those in need.

When you choose to support our Rotary Foundation you are making a difference in two ways: you are changing lives and you are literally saving lives. What an amazing thing to be able to say!

The Rotary Peace Centers Professional Certificate Program

Mid-career professionals from around the world, representing a wide variety of fields, participate in an intensive three month course at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand. Rotary Peace Center alumnus Richelieu Allison, Regional Director of the West African Youth Network, says, "This course has been the missing link in my [ability] to contribute to the resolution of the numerous problems confronting my region. If I had had the knowledge I am gaining now I would have been in a better position to adequately analyze the conflicts, map out the various actors, go the extra mile, and play a major role in helping to restore peace." This sentiment has stuck with him, as he wrote in a recent email, "The changes [the program] made in my life cannot be overemphasized."

A gift to the Peace Center Endowment Fund can make a difference!

Club Goal Setting

Clubs are asked to set annual giving goals for the **Every Rotarian, Every Year** effort. We're asking every Rotarian to support our Foundation with a minimum US\$100 contribution. At the President-elect Training Seminar (PETS) this spring, our club president-elect will be asked to submit an annual giving goal for the upcoming year. History has proven that clubs that set goals follow through with them. Many clubs are exceeding that goal now. "We decided to try for a total of \$600,000 or \$200 per capita in our district," says PDG Holly Callen, D5950. "It seemed like a real stretch and it took us three years to get there, but by setting an ambitious goal, we were able to achieve it. This year we have raised the goal to \$1million - \$300 per Rotarian!"

More importantly, as our club sets its goal for the coming year, we should also remember to measure our success by the number of lives we've saved and changed.

Paul Harris Society

Named after Rotary's founder, the Paul Harris Society recognizes those who annually contribute US\$1,000 or more to the Annual Fund, PolioPlus, or an approved Rotary Foundation grant. By joining the Paul Harris Society, you are making a lasting difference in communities around the world. Rotary Direct, Rotary's recurring giving program, makes it easy to join the Paul Harris Society. Consider making a gift of \$85 a month or \$250 a quarter by using the contribution form or by visiting www.rotary.org/contribute.

Is this something that you could consider? Think of the difference you could make in the world.

Our Foundation Alumni

Former Rotary Peace Fellow from Norway Gert Danielsen, out of a desire to give something back, pledged to donate US\$1,000 every year for the rest of his life to the Rotary Peace Centers program and challenged other Peace Fellows to do the same. Inspired by Danielsen's generosity, Peace Fellow Scott Lang of the United States took up the challenge and also pledged US\$1,000 annually. "My challenge and support reflects a keen desire to give back to the Rotary family now that I am able to do so," Danielsen says. "Giving a gift annually that I know will inspire Rotarians and others to give more and provide peace-building opportunities for even more people is a huge privilege to me."

The commitment made by these two Foundation Alumni is a true testament to the quality of the Peace Fellows and the Rotary Peace Centers program.

What US\$100 can do

It is as simple as having a notebook, pencil and glue. In Pavas, a poor district in San Jose, Costa Rica a packet of educational materials means the difference between an education and working on the street. Most public schools in Costa Rica are under funded and lack many basic supplies, so the Rohmoser Rotary Club, Costa Rica developed a packet of teaching materials for students and partnered with the Vancouver Rotary Club, Canada to distribute 777 packets to children in five very poor elementary schools. US\$100 buys 15 packets. Without this project many students would not be able to continue their education and would be forced to drop out of school.

When *Every Rotarian, Every Year* participates, our foundation is able to continue to build a brighter future for the children of the world.

Fundraising for PolioPlus

What would you do to eradicate Polio? Would you shave off all your hair? Rotarians in District 5040 did just that and raised US\$10,000 for PolioPlus. Would you hike 2,658 miles over six months? Rotarian Chrissy Wallace of California did to raise money for Rotary's PolioPlus program. Would you cycle 4,165 miles on the TransAmerica Trail? Rotarian Robert Keegan of Tennessee did to benefit PolioPlus. Dedicated individuals, clubs and districts continue to promote and support PolioPlus at every opportunity possible. Many districts also give a portion of their District Designated Funds to the polio effort.

What can you do for PolioPlus?

Vocational Training Teams (VTT)

In 2013, Ian Lancaster, of the Rotary Club of Northumberland Sunrise, Ontario, in District 7070, led a vocational training team of medical professionals to Nagoya, Japan, in District 2760. The team, funded by a global grant, comprised a physician, a clinical nurse specialist, a spiritual care professional, a nurse practitioner, and a nursing supervisor. All had experience in palliative care, the branch of medicine that focuses on relieving patient suffering. A Japanese medical team traveled to Ontario to learn about Canadian approaches to this field.

The impact of Vocational Training Teams touches not only the beneficiaries of the grant, but the team members as well.

What a US\$1,000 dollar contribution can do

A contribution of US\$1000 helps provide seven toilets in Sri Lanka. More than 2.6 billion people still lack access to proper sanitation. Most people in the developed world do not think about their sanitation system unless it is not working properly, but in Sri Lanka many people lack access to proper sanitation facilities. The Rotary club of Ja-Ela Kandana, Sri Lanka partnering with the Rotary Club of Madras Northwest, India took the matter into their own hands and obtained a Rotary Foundation Grant to provide sanitation to a small community comprising 15 families. They built fourteen toilets, providing the families with proper sanitation. This will insure a reduction in illness and increase the health and wellness of this community.

The impact of US\$1,000 is significant. Think about that the next time you donate to The Rotary Foundation.

How a Rotary Grant can make a difference

Rotary clubs in Brazil and Mexico and the United states joined together in a Rotary Foundation grant to aid the Lar das Crianças Children's Home in Tanabi, Brazil. This institution provides free extracurricular activities and much needed daycare for low income families. A grant was used to help the Home purchase uniforms for all of the children. Each student also received school supplies, gym shoes, swimsuits and caps. Tanabi Rotarians have seen the student's interest in learning and participating in activities improve as well as the children's sense of self-worth after the uniforms and equipment arrived.

This is just one of the many examples of how the Foundation's humanitarian grants programs can make positive changes for children.

How a Group Study Exchange made history

For the first time in southern African history, a group study exchange took place between two formerly conflicting countries. In November 2006 a GSE team from

Zambia visited South Africa, signifying improved relations between the two countries. This exchange was made possible from a contribution of district designated funds from District 9210 to District 9300. With the end of apartheid in South Africa, these young professionals are now able to talk to one another and share ideas and common interests that will help their countries look to the future in peace.

Some of the greatest stories being told today started with a contribution to The Rotary Foundation. Let's make sure our club is part of the Rotary story.

Why we support our Foundation

Every minute of every day someone's life is being improved by our Rotary Foundation. Rotary clubs on every continent are working to improve the living conditions and health of their fellow citizens. Rotarians like you and me can make a difference by continually supporting our Foundation and the Annual Fund. As Rotarians we determine where funds are allocated through District Designated Funds, which we can use for local or international projects. When we contribute to our Foundation we are promoting worldwide ***Peace and Understanding***.

Only if *Every Rotarian Every Year* makes a gift to the Annual Fund we will be able to continue to do the great work of The Rotary Foundation.

The programs of The Rotary Foundation

When the Foundation's founder Arch C Klumph said:

"The Rotary Foundation is not to build monuments of brick and stone. If we work upon marble, it will perish; if we work on brass, time will efface it....but if we work upon immortal minds, if we imbue them with the full meaning of the spirit of Rotary, we are engraving on those tablets something that will brighten all eternity. "

The educational, humanitarian and PolioPlus Programs are the monuments of the Rotary Foundation and Rotarians should be proud to yell it from the roof tops. We will eradicate polio, hunger and poverty. We will help the world find peace. By supporting the Rotary Foundation with an annual gift you help build these immortal monuments of Rotary.

A unique relationship formed between two Peace Center Fellows

Raveendra Pathiranage, senior state counsel in the attorney general's office in Sri Lanka, and Thevananth Thevanayagam, program manager for the Refugees Rehabilitation Organization in Sri Lanka providing food, shelter, rehabilitation, and other assistance to Tamil refugees, found themselves unlikely classmates in the inaugural session of the Rotary Peace Center program. After arguing incessantly, the two formed a strong bond, united in a desire to bring peace to their homeland.

"We erased the hard feelings and went on to 'What can we do to solve the problem? What can we contribute?'" said Pathirana. The two remain close friends even a year after completing the three-month program, which Pathirana describes as more useful than a year's worth of graduate study.

Every minute of every day somewhere in the world our Rotary Foundation is making a difference in someone's life.

Microcredit

In Cuzco, Peru Rotarians contributed US\$10,000 to a partnering association, Asociacion MIDE, which provided small loans to 288 low-income women. In six months these women improved their businesses and living standards, lifting them out of extreme poverty. While local Rotarians had the opportunity to work together to develop the project and approve the system of loans, the participants learned to use, administer and benefit from financial credit. In the process, the women improved their self-esteem as they acquired entirely new roles of financial responsibility for their families.

How do I focus my giving? *Every Rotarian, Every Year* – Giving is hope in action.

A Rotarian goes the distance for the Foundation

Running, biking and swimming 482 miles in the course of a year or even a month is hardly the marvel of sports headlines. But racking up that distance in three days staggers the imagination. Jeff Glidden did just that through his Ultra Distance Triathlon Challenge, raising US\$100,000 and counting, for the Annual Fund. "It was difficult" said Glidden, "but it was more rewarding than anything I have ever done. Many Rotarians that had never given before contributed and supported me, that was definitely one of my goals" Corporate sponsors helped fuel Glidden's mega-triathlon challenge by each contributing at least US\$1,000. Local media coverage also raised overall awareness of Rotary. All the proceeds from Glidden's challenge went to support The Rotary Foundation.

There are many ways to advocate and donate. Maybe you can think of something new and creative.

Leave a legacy as a Bequest Society member

This is best expressed through a quote from the founder of The Rotary Foundation and Past RI President, Arch C. Klumph

"...There are tens of thousands of Rotarians who will look upon this opportunity (building the Rotary Foundation as a real privilege)...Then there are other men who are seeking ways and means of leaving some part of their wealth where it may do the greatest good for humanity. What better equipped organization or institution than Rotary International can be found to be entrusted with such funds?"

Join with fellow Rotarians past and present who have left their legacy by remembering The Rotary Foundation in their estate plans.

Two Rotary Peace Center alumni working together

Rotary Peace Center program alumnus, Francis Kabosha is busy repatriating refugees in Zambia back to their homeland in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Through the repatriation process, Francis also educates the leaders of the repatriated groups in the ways of peace to help them build and maintain peace in their home areas. He recently called his fellow Rotary Peace Center alumnus, Abdulai Jalloh, logistics officer for the United Nations in DRC, to say, "I'm giving them the tools to build peace, you must ensure they reach their destinations safely." Francis and Abdulai now work together to build peace in the region.

When you donate to The Rotary Foundation, you help make a difference in the world. Donate today.

Turning waste into profit for Philippine coconut farmers

With the aid of a Rotary Foundation grant, the Livelihood Project gives local farmers the supplies and labor to turn wasted coconut husks into "coconuts", which have environmental and economic benefits for the community. The project increased employment levels for women and out of school youth while reviving the local coconut industry. Coconut husks, which are a huge source of agricultural waste, are now used to make coconuts which help provide an environmentally friendly solution to land erosion and degradation. Another husk byproduct, coconut dust is used as a soil enhancer and organic fertilizer.

This is an example of how The Rotary Foundation is helping smaller communities throughout the world and is ensuring that economic growth reaches the poorer communities.

PolioPlus Program

Rotary International encourages Rotarians to be advocates for its #1 goal, the eradication of polio in the world. The goal of polio eradication remains elusive, with three countries still polio-endemic. In 2013, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), a partnership launched in 1988 by national governments and spearheaded by the World Health Organization (WHO), Rotary International, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and UNICEF, with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation developed the "Polio Eradication and End Game Strategic Plan".

This End Game Strategic Plan identifies polio eradication to be completed by 2018 at a projected cost of US\$5.5 billion. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has opted to match \$2 for every dollar donated to PolioPlus by Rotarians from now thru 2018.

The developing world can save more than US\$40 - 50 billion by eradicating this dreaded disease plus avoiding the exposure of a potential 10 million children to polio over the

next 20 years alone. Since 1988, over 2.5 billion children have been immunized against polio. Since that year, the number of cases of polio in the world has been reduced by 99%. We only have 1% to reach our goal. We must not lose sight of our vision of a world without polio. We must finish our work and hold true to our promise to the children of the world.

Arch C. Klumph Society (AKS)

Begun in 2005, Arch C. Klumph Society members are among The Rotary Foundation's top leaders and innovators. Members believe in the work of The Rotary Foundation and have made supporting peace, education, and humanitarian assistance part of their personal mission. They are key supporters of the Foundation, and their involvement is vital to its work. Donors whose cumulative contributions amount to US\$250,000 or more qualify for membership in the Arch C. Klumph Society.

While not everyone can reach this level, it is certainly something to strive for. Imagine the difference a gift of that size can make in the world.

District Grants

Following the migratory patterns of local birds, three Rotarians from District 5690 (parts of Minnesota and Wisconsin, USA) and a park superintendent traveled south to Costa Rica to establish a "sister park" relationship among national parks in both countries. Under the agreement, more than a dozen US parks will work with seven in Costa Rica, focusing on staff development and adult and youth education about rural tourism, environmental affairs, watershed protection and other issues. With travel funded by a US\$5,400 district grant, the team explored potential projects on the Osa Peninsula and consulted with area organizations.

As you can see, funds from The Rotary Foundation can help in many different ways. Every Rotarian, Every Year makes these programs possible.

How we make a positive impact for peace today

The Rotary Peace Centers offer a professional development program that is strengthening the leaders of today for peace. Beyond supporting the program financially, clubs and districts can actively recruit qualified applicants each bi-annual program session. Each district can submit as many candidates for each program session as they deem qualified. As one World Peace Fellow recently put it, "The program has been nothing short of fantastic. I couldn't ask for more."

Give peace a fighting chance by opening the door for candidates in your district.

An inspiring quote from Paul Harris

"I like to think that the pioneering days of Rotary have just begun. What's 40 years in the life of a great Movement? There are just as many new things to be done as ever there were. Rotary must simply continue to pioneer or be left in the rear of progress." Years later, Paul Harris' words are just as meaningful. There are still so many new things to achieve and promises to keep. Remember what Paul Harris said, we must all strive to be PIONEERS on the long road to PEACE.

Making a Major Gift to the Annual Fund

Tom and Fran Bayless of Ohio are passionate about Rotary and support the Foundation in many ways. Tom made his wife, Fran, a Paul Harris Fellow to celebrate the birth of their first child. Their children became Paul Harris Fellows on special birthdays. Following open heart surgery, Tom and Fran decided to become major donors to the Foundation in celebration of her recovery. Said Fran, "Anything we can do, we should do. . . Where does your backyard end?"

Our investment in time, talent and financial resources are an investment in making the world a safer and healthier place for our children and grandchildren.

Packaged Grants

A vocational training team sponsored by District 9110 in Nigeria traveled to Uganda through a packaged grant with Aga Khan University, a strategic partner working in the child and maternal health area of focus. The physician team leader and three nurse educators from Nigeria trained their Ugandan counterparts at the university's School of Nursing and Midwifery in teaching practices that promote student learning and improve effectiveness in education. The training covered research techniques, the use of anatomical models, simulated classroom situations, and how to assess students' attitudes through body language. Team members expanded the impact of the VTT by treating patients at a Rotary Foundation-sponsored health clinic and conducting a prenatal and health education clinic at the Mpigi Health Center, which serves about 120,000 people.

Packaged grants are completely funded by The Rotary Foundation World Fund and the partner on the grant.

Arch C. Klumph, Well-rounded Citizen

This week's Rotary Foundation Thought is about living a full and well-rounded life, as illustrated by the founder of our Foundation, Arch C. Klumph. From our archives: *Arch had a great love of music. At age 18 he began to study the flute, and three years later he received a chair in the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra. He played with the orchestra for 14 years and was a lifelong sponsor of it. "My heart is in music and my head is in business," he said. Arch balanced his love of music and theater with his professional business and dreamed huge dreams beyond Cleveland to the theater of*

the world, with spectacular success. One of those dreams was The Rotary Foundation.

Your contribution to The Rotary Foundation keeps Arch Klumph's dream alive and fulfills the dreams of many people around the world who need our help.

The impact of a Group Study Exchange

For Stephen Rajamani, an insurance broker in Tamil Nadu Province, India the GSE experience was life-changing. Rajamani initially traveled to Brazil to learn about the culture and lifestyle and to learn about insurance practices there. His team visited many businesses, educational institutions and government offices. What Rajamani realized is that human beings are alike everywhere throughout the world, from the mayors and dignitaries who extended a warm welcome to the host families who showered the team members with affection. Upon returning home, Rajamani became a member of the Rotary Club of Manapparai and showed his gratitude to The Rotary Foundation by becoming a Paul Harris Fellow in his first year.

Remember that a District Grant can fund a Group Study Exchange.

PolioPlus and what you can do

Every Rotarian is encouraged to be an advocate for Rotary's #1 goal. As an individual, you can:

- Share with your family, friends and neighbors the fact that Rotary International's #1 goal is to eradicate polio in the world
- Encourage non-Rotarians to participate in PolioPlus related events such as a fundraising dinner to help fill the funding gap!
- Participate in club and district events related to PolioPlus to demonstrate your support of Rotary's #1 goal.
- Provide a link to www.endpolionow.org in your email signature

Don't get left behind, share in Rotary's success by being an advocate for PolioPlus.

Opening doors for those in need

A Rotary Foundation grant for US\$38,900 helped the Rotary Clubs of Istanbul-Findikli, Turkey and East Salem, Oregon, USA purchase six sound-proof booths and equipment to record books from Istanbul's Beyazit Library. Books on CD and MP3 give blind patrons of the library greater access to knowledge and learning and help to improve the literacy rate in Turkey.

Through contributions to The Rotary Foundation Rotarians become partners in opening doors for those in need.

Rotary Scholar Alumni

Four alumni who traveled from the USA to study in Buenos Aires, Argentina have formed Project Patagonia, which provides educational support for school children. The alumni are constructing a multi-media library to meet both short and long-term educational needs at two schools for low-income students in rural Argentina. They are also providing school supplies and nutritional support. Rotary Scholars represent the very best in intellect and character and they are future Rotarians.

Every Rotarian, Every Year – imagine all we can accomplish today and tomorrow. Consider inviting local Rotary Foundation alumni to become members of our Rotary club.

World Polio Day

October 24th is World Polio Day. Rotary clubs are encouraged to hold a special event during that 4th week supporting Rotary's #1 goal, Polio Eradication. This support is more than simply making a donation but serving as an advocate. Ways that a Rotary club can serve as an advocate include:

- Hold a club meeting and invite your local community leaders to update all on the status of the Polio Plus program.
- Appoint an "End Polio Now" Chair and have that person give a weekly report on current events related to Polio in the world
- Encourage Interact and Rotaract clubs to join in with the club in promoting Rotary's #1 goal.
- Plan a special event to promote public awareness of Rotary's #1 goal:
 - A float in a parade
 - A march
 - A sports event
 - A booth at a local fair or other community event
 - Have the county/city boards adopt an "End Polio Now" day

Let everyone know that Rotary welcomes others to join in the effort to eradicate Polio.

Changing and Saving Lives

Have you ever considered that your contribution to The Rotary Foundation may mean the difference between life and death? Rotary Foundation grant projects have helped provide the Malawi Children's Village (MCV) with everything from clean water, food and medications to blankets, sewing machines and a windmill. The Rotary Club of Canandaigua, New York, USA and Chakunga Sibale, director of the MCV, founded the program in 1997 and it is supported locally by the Rotary Club of Limbe. "The MCV has had a very great effect to relieve the suffering of children in my country," says Sibale.

Rotarian's contributions to this project have literally meant the difference between life and death for many of the children in the MCV program.

Cheering for The Rotary Foundation

“I became a true Rotarian. It was that GSE experience. It was a defining moment. I came back and realized that the Foundation was my charity of choice and that I had to convince others that it should be theirs also.”

The visit to a makeshift school during a Group Study Exchange in South Africa helped to change Rotarian John Tomlinson from Canada. He learned that real teaching is about the love of teaching; he also learned what it meant to be a Rotarian. As the team leader of his GSE team he was already a dedicated Rotarian but what he saw in South Africa made him not just a Rotarian but a cheerleader for the Rotary Foundation. He saw first-hand the importance of the Rotary Foundation’s programs and the impact they have on the world. Through John’s efforts and the Rotary Club of Bolton, ONT, Canada that makeshift school he visited has now benefited from two Rotary Foundation grants. Meanwhile John is busy telling everyone about The Rotary Foundation and why Every Rotarian, Every Year is his charity of choice.

Global Grants

Rotary clubs in Honduras and Pennsylvania, USA partnered together to receive a Rotary Foundation Grant to provide eye and vision care to needy people in Honduras. During a 10-day long mission, Rotarians from both clubs worked to provide a wide variety of vision services through clinics held at local schools and neighborhoods. Over 1,200 individuals were evaluated and 600 received prescription eyeglasses. A local non-governmental organization will continue to provide eyeglasses and medications to those in need. Improved eyesight can translate into improved educational or occupational opportunities, contributing greatly to improved quality of life.

To be a Rotarian means to give of our time, talent and financial resources. Will you make that sacrifice so others may have a better life?

Clean water brings hope for a better future

Rotary Foundation Grants assist Rotary clubs and districts in carrying out humanitarian projects with clubs in other countries. A Foundation Grant allowed Rotarians in India to provide 36 hand-pump wells to rural villages in Andhra Pradesh state where there is a severe shortage of water. Access to clean water will improve the quality of life for those living in these villages by helping to prevent disease and alleviate poverty.

Every Rotarian, every project, and every contribution makes a difference every year.

The Endowment Fund

When reflecting on our personal estates and the legacy we want to leave, have we thought about how much we can afford to give away? The late Rotary Foundation Trustee Louis Piconi shared these inspiring remarks: *“Rotarians of today are leaving a legacy to the children of the world when we, Rotary, join our world partners in the celebration of the certification of the eradication of polio from the world. More importantly, and I do mean more importantly, is the fact that the Rotarians of today and tomorrow have the opportunity to leave their own legacy of ‘doing good in the world’ for future educational and humanitarian service programs. Do we dare dream that Rotarians of today not only make it a habit of making an annual contribution each and every year, but leave a percentage of their estate or a one-time significant gift to The Rotary Foundation’s Endowment Fund?”*

This should be the dream, goal and reality of all Rotarians. We need just look and see and feel and touch the wonderful programs and projects we are continually completing that help the world know a more humane society and a more peaceful world.”

District Grants making a difference locally

A dictionary may not be your first choice for an exciting read, but for many students, it’s the key to unlocking a world of amazing information. Using District Grants, Rotary clubs in Southwest Florida, USA, distributed dictionaries to every third grader in District 6960. Clubs worldwide use these grants to support short-term humanitarian projects in their communities.

One club, one grant, one Rotarian can bring wonder to the eyes of a child

What if we don’t End Polio Now?

The goal of polio eradication remains elusive, with three countries still polio-endemic. In recent years, some in the scientific community have raised a difficult question: Can the world eradicate polio, or should we try to contain it?

According to an article by Harvard researchers, controlling the disease would be far more costly than eradicating it. The developing world can save more than US\$1 billion a year by eradicating, while switching to a control strategy would condemn 10 million children to polio over the next 40 years alone.

We must not lose sight of our vision of a world without polio. We must finish our work and hold true to our promise to the children of the world.

Sponsoring Rotary Scholars

“I am confident that I am demonstrating a commitment to Rotary ideals-furthering peace and cultural tolerance- through the work that I produce.” *Alissa Nicole Creamer*

As a Rotary Foundation Scholar Alissa Nicole Creamer got a close- up look at how people recover from the ravages of war. While studying documentary filmmaking in Spain she participated in a project supported by 60 Spanish Rotary Clubs to fund rehabilitation of child victims of land mine explosions. Nearly every day for three months Creamer visited with two Angolan children at a local hospital. She got to know their life stories and now she is telling their story to the world through a documentary film she is directing.

By sponsoring and hosting Rotary Scholars, Rotarians give the world hope for the future.

The Six Areas of Focus

For more than 100 years, Rotarians have joined together from all continents, cultures, and industries to take action in our communities and around the world. With a commitment to achieving lasting change, we work together to empower youth, enhance health, promote peace, and most important, advance the community. While Rotarians can serve in countless ways, Rotary has focused its efforts in six areas, which reflect some of the most critical and widespread humanitarian needs:

- Peace and conflict prevention/resolution
- Disease prevention and treatment
- Water and sanitation
- Maternal and child health
- Basic education and literacy
- Economic and community development

Rotarians planning new service projects are encouraged to consider these areas and the many opportunities for innovative projects.

Service Above Self

Plagued by famine, the impoverished nation of Niger struggles to feed its citizens. But Rotarians like Ernie and Sally Montagne, of Arizona, USA, are helping to break this cycle of hunger and grinding poverty. During a planning trip to Niger on a Rotary Grant, the Montagnes saw firsthand how The Rotary Foundation’s humanitarian efforts are supporting sustainable projects there.

“The Rotary Foundation is our vehicle of choice to enable ordinary Rotarians to make a lasting difference in the lives of thousands of villagers in Africa.”

Ernie and Sally Montagne