



Ian H. S. Riseley
President, 2017-18

T +1-847-866-3467
F +1-847-866-3390
ian.riseley@rotary.org

4th May 2020,

Dear District Governor Rosanne,

As this unusual and eventful Rotary year approaches its close, may I make an appeal to you on behalf of our Rotary Foundation.

This has been a difficult time for all of us, with natural disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic, amongst others. Times are tough!

The world needs our Rotary Foundation more than ever before. The resources of communities have been strained enormously and people are suffering.

So Rotary is stepping up to the plate (although a cricket analogy may be more appropriate). There have been many outstanding projects to help those impacted by the dreadful bushfires last summer, and we have received wonderful support from right around the world, both in encouragement and financial help.

But we still need to maintain our support for The Rotary Foundation, our charity of choice. Let me mention three ways you can make this happen, but of course there are more.

POLIOPLUS. We need to ensure that we raise US\$50 million to obtain the full US\$100 million match from our very generous supporters at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. So, if you have any unallocated DDF, please consider sending it to polio eradication.

ANNUAL FUND. Clubs and Districts in our Zones have always been great supporters of the Annual Fund, part of which flows directly back to the control of our Districts in three years. To ensure we have sufficient funds in the future to enable global grants and provide district grants, we must maintain or increase our donations to the Annual Fund. Please remind your clubs of this important need.

DISASTER FUND. Our Rotary Foundation has established this new fund to meet urgent needs such as hurricane damage and the current pandemic, and over US\$12 million has already been spent through the Rotary Foundation to Rotary Districts to assist with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Unfortunately, the number of disasters has meant that demand for grants has exceeded our capacity to assist, so this fund is also an excellent destination for available DDF or cash contributions.

Whichever element of our Rotary Foundation that is most attractive to clubs in your district, it is vital that our support for the Foundation remains strong, and I ask you to send this message to your clubs.

Thanks for your leadership this year, and all the best for whatever the future brings you in Rotary.

Kind regards,

Ian