**Rotary District Peace Symposium Slide Notes (27 slides)**:

**Introduction:** “Learn, Do, Grow” is the 2012-2013 Theme of our Arlington West Rotary Club. “It is interesting that the more you learn, the more you realize how much you don't know.” Doing is the action that transforms the learning process into humanitarian projects. Growing is the transformation of peace within our hearts.

**Slide 1**: **Your District 5790 held a Peace Symposium in response to R.I. President Tanaka Peace Challenge and Presidential Citation Requirements.** December 2012. L to R: Hollis Lackey,DG…Jeff Whitfield< Peace Fellow…Conrad Heede, PDG

Every Rotary club provides each of us an excellent opportunity to be philanthropic with our time, our skills, and our financial abilities…and to personally experience the inner peace that comes from helping others, and helping the world become a better place. To do this, it might be helpful to transform our humanitarian projects as Peace projects.

How we can do this is one objective of the symposium?

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**Slide 2**: If everybody on the planet understood each others’ core values, we would start to see how global peace is possible. It seems the difference in past Rotary projects and “peace projects” is not as much WHAT WE DO as HOW WE DO IT. With the current state of conflict, the search to find peace has never been more important.

With Rotarians working shoulder to shoulder in over 200 countries, our projects may become a stepping stone to help nations improve their peace-building process. This possibility springs forth hope that when individuals, world class organizations, and governments of all nations actively communicate the importance of living in harmony, there will be progress toward world peace.

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**Third Slide**: What we are attempting to do in the next 30 minutes. Objectives for club peace forum.

This presentation is not meant to be a sermon from the pulpit, nor does it attempt to have all of the answers to Peace.

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**Slide 4**…little humor on why we may be a bit confused. Last item….peace forum…who knows what a peace forum is…Definition?...You are in one right now.

In Rotarian terms, Peace may be developed as a outreach of our current Humanitarian Projects.

Synonyms for Peace: Discussion, Investigation, Analysis, Buzz Session.

**Slide Number 5:** These Peace Symposium topics lend themselves to a series of newspaper articles on peace…also part of the R. I. Presidential Excellence challenge for clubs.

**It is suggested this forum be presented by the club President…use of the material is at the discretion of each club. The text is supported with a copy of this PowerPoint and numerous options for additional peace content. My personal support is available at** **davidwhurt@sbcglobal.net**

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**Slides 6, & 7:** United Nations The **United Nations Volunteers (UNV)** program is a [United Nations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations) organization that advocates the role and benefits of volunteerism for development, integrates [volunteers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Volunteer) into development programs, and mobilizes volunteers for development projects. UN Volunteers comprise one third of all international civilians working in UN [peacekeeping](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peacekeeping) operations. UNV directly mobilizes more than 7,500 people as "UN Volunteers" every year and, since starting operations in 1971, to work onsite on a wide range of projects in developing countries.

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**Slide 8**: Polio eradication is Rotary’s top philanthropic priority. When Rotary launched the PolioPlus program in 1985, there were more than 350,000 polio cases in over 125 countries. Since 1988, Rotary has worked with its partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative to help immunize more than 2.5 billion children and reduce the incidence of polio by 99 percent.

Rotary has contributed more than US$1 billion to the global eradication effort. Proposals are submitted primarily by major partner agencies such as WHO or UNICEF.

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 **Slide Number 9**: Three Peace Keeping Catagories: Peac-Making; Peace Keeping: Peace Building Rotary Peace-building addresses nearly all areas of individual conflict resolution…The Rotary areas of focus are the foundation for our projects.

If peace is going to be a key component of projects, we must build positive relationships. Humanitarian efforts need to communicate who we are and why we are involved. Fresh ideas, innovation, and organizational strategies need to be developed by Rotary Clubs to develop a “ground-up” grass root swell of techniques to actively and compellingly communicate how peace is involved in our projects.

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**Slide Number 10**: Rotary Peace Centers: The Rotary Peace Centers offer individuals committed to peace and cooperation, the opportunity to pursue a master’s degree in international studies, peace studies, and conflict resolution. Up to 110 Peace Fellowships are awarded annually. Peace Fellows are looked upon as leaders who promote national and international cooperation, peace, and successful resolution of conflict throughout their lives, in their careers, and through service activities.

Alumni are powerful advocates for the Foundation because they put a human face on Rotary activities and demonstrate a commitment to the world community. They serve as volunteers for community and international service projects and are potential Rotary club members and donors to the Foundation. They are available to speak at Rotary functions or participate in Rotary programs.

 **If time is available (Max 10 minutes into the presentation**), discuss one or two of the Peace Fellows and what they do. Here is the information on our local Peace Fellow, Jeff Whitfield, who headed this Peace Symposium. **Jeff Whitfield** is a Fort Worth attorney who specializes in conflict resolution. Jeff grew up in Haltom City and attended Haltom High School. He left Texas for the Air Force Academy, from which he graduated as a Distinguished Graduate, and then spent 6 years as an Air Force officer. After his Air Force service, Jeff studied in England as a Fulbright Scholar and Rotary World Peace Fellow. His studies focused on domestic and international conflict resolution. Returning to the United States, he attended law school at The University of Texas and worked his way through school serving as legislative assistant to Texas State Senator Whitmire.

Jeff spent much of 2007 at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. He worked on the criminal trial of politicians and military members who were responsible for the murders of more than eight thousand Muslim men and boys in Bosnia. After this, Jeff returned to the United States and served with a United States Appeals Court Judge.

His practice is focused on helping companies and individuals resolve conflicts and crises they face. Jeff continues his public service by volunteering in several areas, including: veterans’ support programs; community groups working on economic development and employment; and the promotion of conflict resolution.

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**Slide Number 11**: Peace Corps: The Peace Corps was officially established by President John F. Kennedy’s executive order on March 1, 1961. The agency was established to promote world peace and friendship through three simple, yet monumental, goals in 1961:

1) To help the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women; 2) To help promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of people served; and 3) To help promote a better understanding of other people on the part of Americans.

The Peace Corps is an [American](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) [volunteer program](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Cultural_Exchange_Programs) run by the [United States government](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_government_of_the_United_States), as well as a government agency of the same name. The stated mission of the Peace Corps includes three goals: providing technical assistance; helping people outside the United States to understand American culture; and helping Americans to understand the cultures of other countries. The work is generally related to social and economic development. Each program participant, a Peace Corps Volunteer, is an American citizen, typically with a college degree, who works abroad for a period of 24 months after three months of training.

**Slide Number 12**: **The Global Peace Index (GPI)** measurement process is an attempt to measure the relative position of nations' and regions' peacefulness. It is a product of the [Institute for Economics and Peace](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Institute_for_Economics_and_Peace) (IEP) and developed in consultation with an international panel of peace experts from peace institutes and think tanks, with data collected and collated by an Economist Intelligence Unit. Go to their website and also view their world ratings on happiness.

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**Slides Numbers 13 & 14:** Introduction to Book, Let It Begin With Me. Daughter…Radio Host…21 Interviews developed into a book.

The 21 contributors to this book are peace teachers, many of whom are founders of organizations, representing many thousands of members. The book makes it easy to get a handle on what peace is, and how we can promote peace with our projects.

**If Internet capability is available…Take a moment to go to the Internet and View the promo at** [www.letitbeginwithmebook.com](http://www.letitbeginwithmebook.com/)

**As a possible club project, Send the book (available through Amazon.com), District Symposium Article, and District PowerPoint Presentation (with these notes) to another Rotary Club with a peace message from your club.**

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**Slides 15, 16, 17 & 18:** Read each summary from the book: Here are 4 Samples of types of information in the book. Note the web page and source is available for additional information and research.

**Stop for Question**: Based on these four quotes, give me a few words that summarize the peace effort: Get list from audience the pull up **Slide 19**:

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**Slide 19**: The These peace terms, as discussed in the Peace, Let It Begin With Me book, help embellish a peaceful relationship between the giver and receiver.

World peace may be defined as that final destination point at which all nations share the message that reflects peace within people of their respective countries.

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**Slide number 20**: Peace is a by-product of Rotary Projects. A few tips for Integrating and Communicating the Message of Peace with our Projects. World peace may be defined as that final destination point at which all nations share the message that reflects peace within people of their respective countries.

**Slide Number 21**: There are a number of options to satisfy the R.I. Presidential Challenge for Excellence. This forum hopefully will help guide you through the process.

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**Slide Number 22**: If time is available, this forum provies two workshops. One group will design a **Peace Tag** (blank tags will be handed out) for a wheelchair project and Group 2 will develop a **Press Release for a wheelchair project.**

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**Slide 23 (one possible answers to the workshop).** A sample of a “Peace Tag.” This tag, or a permanent label, with your own club message could be affixed to a wheelchair, a well pump, a water filter, or whatever product your project provides.

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**Slide 24**: The **sample press release** may be used in the local and/or social media to set the stage (or report) for a project. Note the first paragraph is the same as the introduction to the peace project article.

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**Slide 25**: The ad actually used by the Arlington West club, is one low cost approach to spread the concept of peace-building, and to provide an opportunity to join Rotary.

It is important that the project recipients learn this is a Rotary humanitarian effort from the USA or other countries…and is based upon the spirit of peace and goodwill of mankind. It should communicate the actual club name and their location.

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**Slide 26… Ideas for inner peace.** Peace-building is like life, it is a work-in-progress process and additional thought from each club is needed to link the internal aspect of peace to the external aspect of projects.

Peace is enhanced when there is a deliberate mental mindset within the individual, and then shared among others.

In addition to Rotary’s six avenues of service, peace-building can start with our interaction with others…perhaps a simple acknowledgment…a handshake or perhaps a hug, or even holding a door open for someone.

Once the process is in auto-pilot, a signal reaches the heart and great things happen.

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**Slide 27:**

With the current state of conflict, the search to find peace has never been more important.

With Rotarians working shoulder to shoulder in over 200 countries, our projects may become a stepping stone to help nations improve their peace-building process. This possibility springs forth hope that when individuals, world class organizations, and governments of all nations actively communicate the importance of living in harmony, there will be progress toward world peace.

 **(Slide** 27 on Screen) How many of you have completed your clubs Peace Project for this years Presidential Citation? If there are a few who say yes, get a quick overview.

If you are like me, the task assignment was difficult to embrace because in my mind, all Rotary projects involve Peace in one way or another.

So, it seems the difference in past Rotary projects and future “peace projects” is not as much WHAT WE DO as HOW WE DO IT.

**END.**