

PROGRAM NOTES

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A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CLIFF DOCHTERMAN



My Fellow Rotarians,

Wherever my travels have taken me to help salute the programs of Rotary this year, I have learned that despite cultural, economic, political and language differences, the love of Rotary and the hope it signifies is the common link among Rotarians.

Our salute to Rotary's Drug Abuse Prevention program, held in San Francisco, California, U.S.A., last summer, drew great interest. During the program salute, the findings of a new study on the economic effect of drug abuse, funded by a local Rotarian, were announced. The in-

ternational news coverage that resulted reflects well on Rotarians everywhere. And I wish you had been with me in India, where World Community Service was highlighted, not only to see the tremendous variety of projects but to experience the indescribable enthusiasm of Rotarians there who have known for so long that "Real Happiness Is Helping Others." I found similar enthusiasm in the Philippines as we reviewed the Rotary Village Corps, and in Charlotte, North Carolina, U.S.A., where a thousand Interactors attended seminars. In London, appreciation was expressed for the vital work of Rotarians in serving the Rotary Foundation's scholars for more than 40 years. Every "Salute" has been an exciting opportunity to see Rotary at work.

Now, my friends, I ask for your help as we continue to salute the programs of Rotary. Won't you please disseminate the following Program Notes by whatever means are expedient and appropriate. Club members can take turns reading one story at each weekly meeting before the regular program, or the articles can be published in the club bulletin. You may think of other ways to use them to increase the knowledge and pride of your fellow Rotarians in the work that Rotary does so well.

The more Rotarians know about Rotary, the greater will be their ability to serve.

SHARED INTERESTS PROMOTE FRIENDSHIP, SERVICE AND UNDERSTANDING

Rotarians with special interests can always find fellow enthusiasts through the World Fellowship Activities of Rotary International. Whether the interest lies in computers, stamp collecting, amateur radio or flying, Rotarians can find others with a similar affection.

In 1947, an English Rotarian wanted to share his love for boating with other Rotarians, and the Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians was born. Boating enthusiasts began flying the Rotary emblem from their crafts. Soon, Rotary fleets sprang up around the world. More than 20 years later, when the World Fellowship Activities program received official recognition from the Board of Directors, groups encompassed myriad activities from golfing to caravanning.

The groups not only provide camaraderie, but inspire service as well. The International Fellowship of Canoeing Rotarians made waves by pulling 3.2 metric tons of trash from the Thames River in Ontario, Canada. The group intends to make river cleanup an annual worldwide event. The International Fellowship of Rotarian Gardeners transformed a littered, abandoned lot in Janesville, Wisconsin, U.S.A., into a lush botanic garden that includes an English cottage garden, a Japanese garden, prairie flowers, brick walkways, a gazebo and spring-fed ponds. Each year, the International Music Fellowship of Rotarians pools its collective talent to compose a theme song for the president of Rotary International.

To become an official World Fellowship Activity, an interest group must be recognized by the World Fellowship Activities Task Force. A group wishing to apply for official status with Rotary International must have the approval of the district governors of at least three districts in different countries, have no financial, political or commercial goals, and agree to publish a newsletter, no less than annually, for its members.

● For information, order *World Fellowship Activities of Rotarians*, #PA2-729

COMBATING HUNGER A HIGH PRIORITY FOR ROTARIANS

Responding to United Nations figures that more than 35,000 people worldwide die each day from starvation and at least one billion more suffer from hunger, the RI Board of Directors in 1992 conferred a high priority to the worldwide alleviation of hunger. In addition, the Board directed that special emphasis be placed on projects to help the elderly and women with children.

Realizing it is best to provide people with the tools and training necessary to produce their own food, the Rotary Clubs of Wilmette, Illinois, U.S.A., and Accra, Ghana, used a Health, Hunger and Humanity (3-H) Grant to establish an agricultural training program in Ghana. Local farmers learned to increase food production and improve nutrition.

The Rotary Club of Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A., worked with local churches to set up a food kitchen for homeless and unemployed people in the area. The kitchen also prepared sack lunches for employed homeless people.

The Rotary Club of Guatemala City, Guatemala, with the help of a 3-H Grant, formed a foundation to locate and treat malnourished children in poor neighborhoods and teach mothers about proper nutrition. Volunteers canvassed the neighborhoods to locate malnourished children. The children were fed a high-calorie and high-protein diet.

Rotary Clubs in Sao Paulo Oeste, Brazil, and Hiroshima, Japan, used a Matching Grant to support their World Community Service project to distribute Brazil nut seedlings to indigenous people in deforested areas of the Amazon. The project provided Indians with a protein-rich diet and helped protect their environment.

Across the world, Rotarians are working to alleviate the hunger and suffering of millions.

● For information, order *Alleviating Hunger*, Fact Sheet PR-31

INTERCOUNTRY COMMITTEES BUILD BRIDGES

In keeping with the spirit of Rotary, Intercountry Committees foster international understanding, goodwill and peace through the friendship and cooperation of Rotarians united in service.

Rotary clubs in France and Germany formed the first Intercountry Committee (ICC) in 1931 to foster peace between the two nations. Currently, there are more than 60 ICCs involving at least 30 countries.

ICCs strengthen international bonds by sponsoring exchanges and international service

projects. Typically, ICCs participate in youth, vocational and family exchanges, and hold conferences on a range of issues. In addition, ICCs are often the framework through which World Community Service projects are carried out. Representatives from Intercountry Committees meet at least once a year. The meeting place alternates between the two countries. To stay informed of each other's Rotary activities, ICCs exchange club directories and regional publications.

The France-Senegal ICC helped develop the M'Bayene area of Senegal by providing water wells, hand pumps and reservoirs. It also secured a grant from The Rotary Foundation to help fund the development project. Members of the France-Morocco ICC developed a professional vocational training center in Casablanca.

Rotary clubs in Britain and Ireland have formed an ICC with Rotary clubs in Italy. Together, they have sponsored conferences on topics such as the environment, border security and the unification of Europe.

ICCs provide another valuable Rotary pathway to peace and understanding.

● For information, order *Intercountry Committees*, Fact Sheet PR-47

CARL P. MILLER DISCOVERY GRANTS PROMOTE PEACE AND UNDERSTANDING

The late Carl P. Miller, 1981-82 RI president, was a great believer in Rotary's potential to promote international peace and understanding. To lend support to Rotarians working to improve international relations, Carl and his wife, Ruth, made a US\$1 million contribution to The Rotary Foundation Endowment for World Understanding and Peace. Carl Miller instructed that his gift be used to stimulate international service projects that involve the cooperative efforts of clubs or districts in two or more countries. The Foundation Trustees agreed to use the endowment fund to establish the Carl P. Miller Discovery Grant program.

Each Carl P. Miller Discovery Grant provides up to US\$3,000 to help fund the travel, planning and research necessary to develop international service projects. Funding for the grants is made available twice a year: 1 July and 1 January. The grants promote people-to-people contact and solve many logistical problems that arise when setting up an international project.

The Rotary Club of Altadena, California, U.S.A., in cooperation with the Rotary Club of Warsaw, Poland, recently used a Carl P. Miller Discovery Grant to help establish two management and leadership training centers in Poland. The centers provide educational resources on entrepreneurship and conducting business in a free-market economy.

The Rotary Clubs of Astorps, Sweden, and Dar Es Salaam North, Tanzania, used a Discovery Grant to plan the construction of a small orphanage in Tanzania for children of AIDS victims. Rotary clubs in Canada and Honduras used a Discovery Grant to initiate a plan to help street children in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

The seed money from a Carl P. Miller Discovery Grant can be the first step toward a successful international partnership.

● For information, order *The Carl P. Miller Discovery Grants program information card*, #RF-199

ROTARIANS HELP THE ELDERLY

The number of elderly people in the world has risen dramatically in the last half of this century, and this segment of the population continues to swell. As families move apart, more and more seniors with healthcare and other needs are left with few people to care for them. Those who flourish well past retirement age often lack opportunities to apply their skills and remain active and productive.

Since 1985, the RI Board has encouraged Rotary clubs to address the growing needs of the elderly. Rotarians have responded with a host of programs.

A popular club activity is matching the young with the old. The Rotary Club of Toledo, Ohio, U.S.A., through its Friend-to-Friend program, paired sixth graders with seniors living in a local nursing home. The pairs exchange letters and meet once a month to play games and read together.

Alzheimer's disease forces many grown children to keep a constant watch on their elderly parents, leaving them little time to attend to the demands of their lives. The Rotary Club of Sydney, New South Wales, in cooperation with the Alzheimer's Association, built "Rotary Cottage," a respite center that provides a few hours care to Alzheimer's patients and gives their care-givers some time to themselves.

In Japan, workers often retire before age 60 and wish to continue to lead active and productive lives. Japan Silver Volunteers, a program established by the Rotary Club of Tokyo Yamanote, along with 24 other Rotary clubs, links volunteer retirees with organizations or projects in developing countries in need of technical and professional expertise.

Through their efforts, Rotarians are bettering the lives of those in need of care and companionship.

● For information, order *Learning from Experience*, #PA2-621

PROMOTING PEACE WORLDWIDE

In an action that extends the activities undertaken by Rotary to promote international understanding, goodwill and peace, the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation in 1990 established the Rotary Peace Programs as a regular, on-going program. The program funds not only international peace forums, but also lends support to peace initiatives at the club and district level.

The first "local" Rotary Peace Program occurred in conflict-ridden Northern Ireland. RI district 116 (Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland) formed a Committee for Mutual Understanding to explore ways to bring together those in conflict. A peace forum was organized and more than 100 people representing 42 Rotary clubs attended. Several projects to build a brighter future in Ireland emerged from the forum. The projects include cross-border study tours, volunteer opportunities for young people, projects to assist the unemployed and the disabled, and an essay contest on peace for students ages 14-18 throughout Ireland.

Rotary clubs sharing the same name and a mutual understanding of racial tension joined to promote harmony at the local level. Rotarians in Birmingham, Alabama, U.S.A., the scene of racial strife the 1960s, helped fund a community project initiated by the Rotary Club of Handsworth, Birmingham, England, to lessen racial tension there. The Rotary Foundation matched the money raised by the Alabama club.

These grassroots efforts involving Rotary and the general public complement the many educational and cultural exchange activities and international development efforts that are helping to build a world environment for sustainable peace.

● For information, contact Rotary's Programs Division for a recent newsletter

TRAVELING FIRST CLASS ON A FRIENDSHIP EXCHANGE

Through Rotary Friendship Exchange, Rotarians and their families can travel to other countries and experience much more than the standard tourist fare. They relax in another's home, share home-cooked meals, and experience a country's culture with those who live there and know it best.

There are two kinds of Rotary Friendship Exchanges. In the club-to-club visitor program, Rotarians and their families spend a few days living in a Rotarian's home in another country. In the

district-to-district team program, four to six Rotarians and their spouses visit several communities in a Rotary district of another country, staying for a few days with a family in each community. These visits typically last one month.

The district friendship exchange committees coordinate the exchanges, which are carried out at no expense to Rotary International. Participants are responsible for their travel arrangements and expenses. To participate, an interested Rotarian must contact his or her club president, who will contact the friendship exchange chairman to investigate what is available. Rotarians can travel anywhere in the world where there is a participating Rotary district. Rotarians wishing to host visitors apply through their club presidents, as well.

Exchanges often lead to service projects between two districts. A team of Rotarians from Canada's district 5550 visited district 3010 in India and toured an eye-care facility. After the visit, one of the team members returned with five members from Operation Eyesight Universal, an organization that promotes international help with sight restoration and disease prevention.

Reciprocal exchanges and homestays among Rotarians lead to enhanced appreciation and understanding of another's country, and they offer people-to-people contacts through which Rotarians establish lasting friendships.

● For information, order *Everything You Need to Know about Friendship Exchange*, #PA2-707

GROUP STUDY EXCHANGE OFFERS PROFESSIONAL AND CULTURAL IMMERSION



Among Rotary's many educational exchange activities through which international bonds of friendship are established is The Rotary Foundation's Group Study Exchange (GSE) program.

Group Study Exchange offers non-Rotarian professionals the opportunity to travel to another country to observe the customs and vocations of their hosts. Two Rotary districts in different countries each select a team of four participants led by a Rotarian group leader. Participants must have been employed at least two years and be exemplary within their professions. Each team spends four to six weeks touring the other's country, visiting government and cultural institutions, schools, and historic and scenic points of interest. Team members also spend at least five days observing their own vocations in the host district.

Rotarians provide lodging and meals for the visiting team, offering an intimate setting to become acquainted with local customs.

"Pilot" GSE teams made some of the first contacts that led to the establishment of Rotary clubs in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Rotary is the first service club association to be invited into the former Soviet Union. These pilot exchanges have been between Great Britain and the Republic of Georgia; Czechoslovakia and Brazil; Hungary/ Yugoslavia and Australia; Poland and the U.S.A.; and Estonia/ Russia and Australia and the U.S.A.

This year, 87 percent of Rotary districts are participating in the Group Study Exchange program.

● For information, order the *Group Study Exchange brochure/poster*, #RF2-160

GRANTS ALLOW UNIVERSITY TEACHERS TO SPREAD THEIR KNOWLEDGE

Since 1985, university professors have been given the opportunity through grants from The Rotary Foundation to teach their specialties to students in developing countries. More than 65 teachers have been awarded grants since the program's inception. In a move that may stimulate more interest among Rotary districts, the Foundation has recently made University Teacher Grants available to Rotarians and their relatives.

Beginning with the 1994-95 academic year, Rotary districts will have the option, through the SHARE system, of awarding a US\$10,000 grant for three to five months of service, or a US\$20,000 grant to subsidize six to ten months of service. Recipients must have at least three years of teaching experience at the college or university level, and they must teach in fields that benefit their host countries.

Although the teachers work in their host countries for only a short time, they are able to make a tremendous impact. Alan Rogers, a professor of adult education at the University of Reading in England, spent a year at the University of Madras in India, where he helped establish a center for population education. Louise Shoemaker, professor of social work at the University of Pennsylvania, U.S.A., used her grant to teach community development and social service delivery systems at the University of Ibadan in Nigeria. Her efforts were instrumental in the university's development of the nation's first graduate program in social work.

Through Rotary University Teacher Grants, professors with expertise in fields of study that have practical application in developing countries are able to make a lasting impact on our world.

● For information, order *University Teacher Grants*, #RF2-193

ROTARIANS CELEBRATE A POLIO-FREE WESTERN HEMISPHERE ✓

Since 1985, Rotarians across the world have been working to keep a promise – to protect every child from the cruel, crippling disease of polio. The efforts of Rotarians, in cooperation with the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the Pan American Health Organization, national governments and others, have paid off dramatically.

Consider the following achievements: Rotarians raised US\$241 million for global eradication – twice the original goal; the Foundation has allocated more than US\$177 million for PolioPlus projects in 97 nations to fully immunize some 500 million children; today, more than 80 percent of infants are immunized against six preventable diseases – polio, measles, tetanus, whooping cough, diphtheria and tuberculosis – up from 20 percent just a decade ago; in 1985, 500,000 cases of polio were reported annually – today, 120,000 cases are reported each year; and since the PolioPlus campaign began, polio-free countries have risen to 116 from 74.

Rotarians can be especially proud of their efforts in Latin America. In 1986, there were almost 1,000 cases of polio reported in the Western Hemisphere. The number of cases plummeted to 9 by 1991. Because of the hard work and dedication of Rotarians and others, the Americas recently celebrated one year of being polio-free. The last confirmed case of polio was reported in Peru in September of 1991, marking the first time the Western Hemisphere has been polio-free for more than one year.

While these figures are impressive, the work is far from over. The greatest barrier to eradication is complacency. Renewed commitment is imperative to keep the promise of protecting all the world's children. With the continued support of Rotarians, the year 2005 will indeed be a time for celebration. Not only will Rotarians be commemorating their 100th year, they will be celebrating the eradication of polio from the face of the earth – one of the greatest public health success stories in history.

● For information, order the *PolioPlus kit*, #CD-326