



RACHEL WILLIAMS

Service Above Self honoree, Ipswich (MA) Rotary Club

Rachel's passion and commitment is to establish schools in Pakistan and, especially, to make sure that girls have the opportunity to go to school. Education, she believes, is the way to build peace both in our own communities and across the world.

When she joined the Rotary Club of Ipswich, MA, more than 12 years ago, Rachel was quickly asked to serve as Club International Chair and learned that her expected role was to make the club more international. The club couldn't have selected a more persuasive person for that task! Or a more selfless one: Rachel's first Matching Grant was funded by donations – received in lieu of presents – from her wedding to Peabody Club Rotarian Fred deNapoli.



Rachel quickly committed her club to a number of Rotary International grants and other humanitarian projects. Rachel believes strongly that educational assistance is the key to peace, both locally and internationally. She believes that to keep crime down in our neighborhoods, we need good public schools, and that to maintain peace in the world, we need to promote literacy on a global basis – especially in cultures where girls have previously not been permitted an education.

In addition to her club activities, Rachel has served as District Literacy Resource Coordinator in District 7930 (Boston and the North Shore).

Rachel is a passionate speaker on literacy. She spoke at Rotary-UN Day in New York City in 2011, and she is an Ambassador of Goodwill in Pakistan and last year addressed the District 3272 Peace Conference there. For her work, in 2009 she was honored with the Service Above Self Award, Rotary's highest award for individual Rotarians.

Rachel has made education for girls in Pakistan her special focus. Currently, she is in the process of facilitating three adopt-a-school Rotary Foundation Matching Grants to forward this work. She travels to Pakistan each November to check on past and current projects, and to plan ones for the future.