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Dear District 7780 Rotarians,

I recently spent an afternoon with our Group Study Exchange Team, learning more about them, telling them about Rotary and sharing their excitement to be traveling to Hong Kong to represent our District. I am satisfied that the future of our world is secure, filled with such competent young professionals. I am also confident that as we transition into Future Visions, sending Vocational Training Teams, that Rotary and the world will continue to benefit. I am reminded of President Ray Klinginsmith's words, "Rotary is the best in the world at linking people of goodwill around the globe and then gaining their cooperation and support to make the world a much better place to live and work."

With our Rotary Foundation we do make the world a better place, through Polio-Plus, Humanitarian grants home and away, Peace Fellows or GSE. Rotary makes a difference because of individual Rotarians who care.

As I write this, the chill is in the air, and leaves are rapidly falling. I gaze out my window at the barren starkness of the ash and maple and draw strength from the mighty oak with its unwavering hold on its leaves. It conjures images of the many far less fortunate than we who stand steadfastly against the challenges of a world where their only water brings disease; against

challenges of a world without a medical facility to cure their many ailments or mend their suffering bodies. And of those whose only meal is no more than a fraction of what we had for dinner today. Children without parents, yearning minds without a school, tired bones without a bed, and yet they persevere. To me the mighty oaks are like those mothers and fathers holding fast to the hope of a brighter future for their children, holding fast just to life itself.

November is a time of reflection and giving thanks for all that we enjoy. In the Rotary world, November is Foundation month. It is a time when we are asked as individuals to make a contribution to support our Rotary Foundation in an effort to create positive changes in our world.

I am personally asking each of you to give from your blessings so that others can be thankful too. I hope you remember my story of Mrs. Woodbury, her \$2 in every greeting card - each time thinking of the change she would create for the person on the other end, not thinking of herself.

We cannot change the world overnight but we can make a difference, one life at a time. One less dinner out, one less movie ticket, one less cup of coffee - if we all do this little bit every day this holiday season we can bring hope to those in need and bring the world a bit closer to the peace all of us wish for in our holiday prayers.

How many lives will you change? How many lives will you save? I continue to ask you to join me as we share our blessings with those who have nothing, extending our hands and our hearts, leaving our fingerprints and our heart prints over mountains and across the seas. Thank you.

**Warm wishes for a Happy
Thanksgiving with your family and
friends.**

Ann Lee Hussey

District Governor

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