Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with us....

**Peace Centers:** More than a decade ago, Rotary made a visionary investment in the Rotary Peace Centers Program. Today, over 900 graduates are working throughout the world in governments, international organizations, universities and more - Arnoldas Pranckevicius is a policy adviser to the President of the European Parliament, Maria Effendi is an associate professor at the National Defense University in Pakistan, responsible for peace and conflict resolution curriculum, Cherine Badawi (D5170) is curriculum and training coordinator at Generation Waking Up in San Francisco, designing training for young people in multicultural contexts - just to introduce a few of our Fellows. Such an important program to support! What can we do? Invite a Peace Fellow to speak (contact your TRF Team), find candidates, spread the word, share the impact! Click [here](#) to read about many of our graduates on the Rotary Peace Centers Facebook page.

Applications for the 2017-18 year are now available, please click [here](#). Two new webinars are scheduled: [All About the Rotary Peace Fellowship January 26](#) and [Turning Applicants into Fellows (best practices, coaching, tips for success) February 11](#). Additionally our own Carol Fellows (D5110), member of the Rotary Peace Centers Committee, has put together an excellent 20 min. webinar on the Peace Fellow program, tips for recruiting and mentoring, and what our our Peace Fellows are doing in the world today, including our own Zone 25 Fellows! Click [Here](#) to access the webinar in our TRF Resources.

**Presidential Peace Conference** - Ontario CA - January 15-16. *Peace starts with you!* This important conference will bring together Rotary members, business leaders, and representatives from the public and private sectors to explore ideas and solutions on conflict prevention and resolution. With two full days of world-class speakers, multiple tracks and breakout sessions, you will leave with new perspectives and proven solutions. Click [here](#) for more information. Hope to see you there!
End Polio Now and Forever

WPV Cases as of 15 December
Afghanistan 17 (25 last YTD)
Pakistan 49 (282 last YTD)

Recently I was asked about what is happening in Pakistan. The battle continues! Here is a recent report from the Global Polio Eradication Committee: In the shade of a tree in the remote village of Chandiya in Dera Ghazi Khan district of Punjab, a crowd of people wait their turn to receive medical treatment. Reaching children and their parents who all too often do not receive basic health care and water and sanitation services, these camps deliver polio vaccines to the children who most need them, alongside other important health services.

"This is a rare chance that a doctor is visiting our village to give us free check-up and medicines. It's a blessing for us to services right at our neighbourhood," said Sher Ali, a local standing in the crowd who had brought his child for vaccination.

Across Pakistan, 1857 health camps have been set up by the Government of Pakistan with support from technical partners and donors. So far this year, 480,538 people have benefited from the health services delivered at these camps, including 10,000 children under the age of five who have never previously received the oral polio vaccine. This has made health camps a vital tool in Pakistan’s push to identify and protect the children who have been missed by polio campaigns in recent years. Full update, click Here.

Challenges continue: A UN news feed reports Polio Vaccination Campaigns meet with resistance in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Islamic militants, including those from the Islamic State, are stymying efforts to vaccinate Afghanistan’s children against polio. Approximately, 100,000 children missed being vaccinated in a recent campaign, said a Ministry of Health official. In neighboring Pakistan, security issues and a lack of workers needed to administer the vaccinations is making it difficult to reach vaccination goals, say officials.

Our continued support, our continued advocacy are critical. It is hard to fathom the dangers faced, the commitment and dedication needed on each and every polio eradication battlefield. Our polio vaccination workers are truly heroes! If you have not yet seen Bill Gates letter to the world's polio fighters, please take a moment, click HERE. Great to share!
Heroes of Polio Eradication - HOPE Awards

Around the world, thousands of polio workers have selflessly dedicated their lives to stopping polio in their communities – whether through educating families about the disease, advocating to local leaders or delivering polio vaccines to children. It is in large part because of their efforts that the world is now on the verge of becoming polio-free.

To recognize the invaluable contributions of polio workers everywhere, this year His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Armed Forces, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation partnered to create the first-ever Heroes of Polio Eradication (HOPE) Awards. On Sunday December 6, His Highness and Bill Gates personally honored five of these extraordinary individuals at the HOPE Awards ceremony in Abu Dhabi.
THE DISTRICT ENDOWMENT MAJOR GIFT INITIATIVE

The new District Endowment Major Gift Initiative training program conducted in Fairfield, California, in September included participants from four Zone 25 districts (5150, 5160, 5180 and 5190). The training was developed to provide district level Rotary leadership with information necessary to successfully pursue major gift solicitation at the district level.

The training was developed by Jerry Hall, Zone 25 EMGA, and Major Gift Officer, Elizabeth Anderson. To date, the training has been presented in Seattle and Fairfield to audiences including DGs, DGEs, DGNs, district foundation committee chairs, and fund development committee chairs and committee members. Although initially focused on fund development committees, the training is more than useful for district leadership as it brings a team approach to identifying, cultivating and soliciting major gifts. The training includes role playing to give district major gift committee members useful techniques in cultivating prospective major donors and a sense of how to actually make the “ask.” Feedback comments from attendees have included comments that “this training will be useful for anyone involved in fund raising” and “…why haven’t we had this kind of training before?”

If you would like this type of training for your district foundation major gift team, contact Jerry Hall (jhallreno@sbcglobal.net or 775.329.5538) to schedule a training session in your area.

Rotary welcomes three NEW Rotarian Action Groups

- The Rotarian Action Group for Eliminating Clubfoot Disability focuses on timely treatment and appropriate care for children born with clubfoot deformity worldwide.
- The Environmental Sustainability Rotarian Action Group addresses environmental sustainability, builds awareness of climate change, and acts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Mental Health Initiatives: A Rotarian Action Group focuses on designing solutions, creating awareness, and executing international programs to improve mental health services.

Rotarian Action Groups (RAGs) are autonomous groups of Rotarians, family members, and Rotary program participants and alumni. Members are passionate and very knowledgeable! They can help your Club and District plan and carry out projects in their area of expertise, including helping with global grant applications. They are great resources for connecting with project partners, and sponsors! A total of 25 groups operate around the globe. Click here for a Directory (in our Zone TRF Resources).
Rotary Global Awards Program.....Give it a try! Enjoy this short video from President Ravi as he introduces the program. Click here to watch.

Rotary Global Rewards Program offers discounts on car rentals, hotels, dining, and entertainment. You can both claim awards or add your own! Even better, Rotary Global Rewards help you share Rotary by:

• Doing more good work — Involve more members in Rotary projects with savings on truck rentals, airfare, and hotels
• Building Rotary friendships — Forge richer friendships with fellow members with your dining and entertainment offers
• Sharing our story with someone new — Tell people about Rotary’s work when you use discounts at coffee shops and restaurants

Check it out and enjoy!

Wishing the Happiest of Holidays to you and all your family!

Your Zone 25 TRF Team is here to help in any way we can. Please contact us!

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