

Rotary

District 5970



Expanding Our Global Impact

International Service — Why It Matters and How Your Club Can Lead

Presented by the District International Service Chair | District 5970

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The Heart of Rotary: Service



Why International Service Matters

Rotary's 4th Avenue of Service

1 Club Service

2 Vocational Service

3 Community Service

4 **International Service**

5 Youth Service

Why It Matters to YOUR Club



Attracts younger members who want world-level impact



Energizes existing members with meaningful purpose



Differentiates Rotary from all other service clubs



Builds lasting cross-cultural friendships worldwide



Creates compelling stories that grow membership

The State of Our District

Membership & Foundation Giving Trends



↓ Declining

Membership

2025-2026	1,783
2024-2025	1,801
2023-2024	1,864
2022-2023	1,921
2021-2022	1,993

Fewer active Rotarians in District 5970 means less capacity to serve



↓ Funding Gap

Foundation Giving

2025-2026	\$222,639
2024-2025	\$212,343
2023-2024	\$199,884
2022-2023	\$226,431
2021-2022	\$305,510

Reduced Annual Fund contributions mean fewer District Designated Funds (DDF)



At Risk

Global Projects

- El Salvador latrines & WASH
- Global Scholarships (UK)
- Tanzania water project
- Friendship Exchange (new)

Less DDF means fewer matching grants for life-changing international projects

⚠️ 64% rate IS engagement low or very low. Declining membership & giving further limits global impact.

International Service Survey Results

25 of 49 clubs responded (51%) — 1,189 members (66% of district) survey in June & July 2026

64%

Low/Very Low Engagement

- 40% rated themselves 1/5
- 40% have no IS plan or chair
- 77% no sister club interest
- 68% zero direct projects

Top Barriers to International Service

- Local focus (11 clubs)
- Low member interest (9)
- Lack of knowledge (9)
- Funding (7) & Membership (7)
- Volunteer time (5)

Support Needed from District

- Project showcase (8 clubs)
- Seed funding (7)
- Mentorship (7)
- No support needed (6)
- Grant training (5)



Opportunity is real — the DRN & district leadership can move these numbers.

Global Grants: Making Big Things Happen

1



2



3



4



5

Find a Partner

Connect with an international Rotary club via the DRN or My Rotary

Identify Need

Focus on one of Rotary's 7 areas of focus with measurable outcomes

Apply Online

Apply through the My Rotary portal — your DISC and DRN will help

Leverage DDF

District 5970 DDF + World Fund: 3:1 match, up to \$400K

Implement

Clubs oversee delivery with local partners for lasting impact



How Matching Works

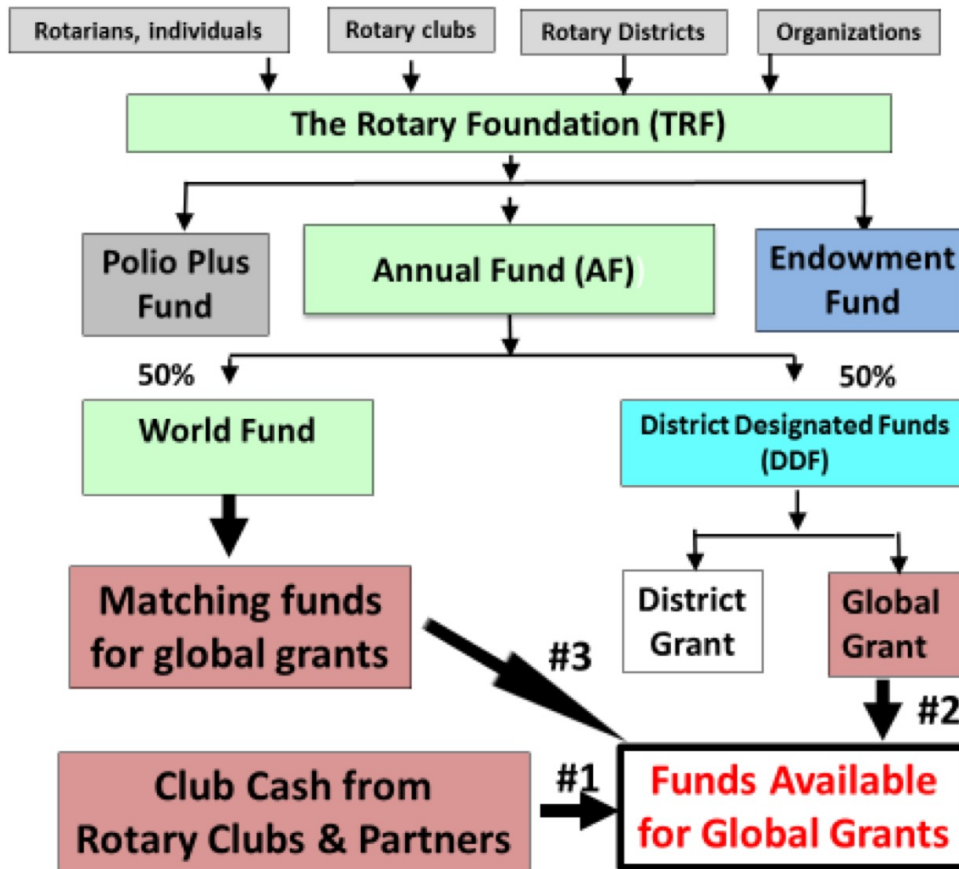
- Your club contributes cash to the project
- District 5970 DDF adds match (up to 50% balance)
- International club contributes cash + their DDF
- World Fund matches the remaining balance
- Result: Every \$1 raised can become \$3–\$4



Qualification Requirements

- Club must be qualified by Rotary International
- At least one member completes Grant Training
- Club in good standing with dues & commitments
- Partner club in host country must also be qualified
- Reach out to your DISC — to guide you through each step

How Do Funds Come Back to Local Rotary Clubs?



The Power of Leverage

In 2022 Cedar Rapids Daybreak built 75 composting latrines in Las Trincheras, El Salvador with 2:1 matches from others.



- District 5970 DDF \$35,000
- District 5170 DDF 18,234
- District 7213 525
- The Rotary Foundation 42,587
- WASH Rotary Action Grp 2,100
- **Project Total \$98,446**

Pathways to International Service

Strongest Tools for Service and Member Engagement



**Rotary
Friendship
Exchanges**



**Rotary
Fellowships**



**Intercountry
Committees**



**Rotary
Community
Corps**



**Rotary Action
Groups**



**Rotary
Partnerships**



**Rotary Youth
Exchanges**



**Twin / Sister
Clubs**



**RYLA /
Interact**



**Project
Fairs**

The District Resource Network (DRN)

What Is the DRN?

A regional coalition of Rotary members, alumni, and partners who support clubs with their international service goals.

Overseen by the District International Service Committee

Connects clubs with experts to design impactful, sustainable projects

Based on the priorities of the communities you serve

Requires active collaboration among district leaders

Who's in the Network?

 Michelle Bell

 Jeff Hassman

 John Wasta

 John Schultz

 Steve Benton

 Joe Lock

 Chris Lindell

As your DISC, my role is to maintain the DRN, connect clubs to partners, and mentor your international service efforts.

The Power of International Service



What Rotary Clubs Like Yours Have Accomplished



5,000

people served

**Clean Water — Rural
Uganda**

Two Iowa clubs partnered with a Ugandan district to fund a water borehole and hygiene training program using a \$60K Global Grant.



200+

students enrolled

**Girls' Education —
Guatemala**

A sister club partnership funded scholarships for girls at risk of dropping out — a program now in its 8th consecutive year.



1,200

patients treated

**Mobile Health Clinics —
Honduras**

A Rotary Action Group deployed medical volunteers and funded a mobile clinic through district and Foundation grants.

Practical steps every club can take this Rotary year

Tell Foundation Stories

Share a 1-minute impact story at every meeting

Set a Club Giving Goal

Set a goal: \$100+ per member annually to the Annual Fund

Create Paul Harris Society

Recognize Paul Harris Fellows publicly — newsletter and meetings

Promote Employer Matching

Help members identify employer Foundation matching programs

Host an International Speaker

Invite a Peace Fellow or grant beneficiary to address your club

Adopt a Global Grant Project

Any contribution qualifies your club as a Global Grant partner

Engage Rotaract & Interact

Rotaract & Interact participants become future Foundation donors

Track & Celebrate Progress

Post your Foundation giving rank — make it a district competition

Take Action Today — For District 5970

Three commitments your club can make before you leave today:

1



Action 1

Increase Foundation Giving

- Commit to \$100+ per member to the Annual Fund this year
- Identify 3 members who aren't yet Paul Harris Fellows
- Ask your board to budget a club Foundation matching gift

2



Action 2

Start or Strengthen a Partnership

- Identify one international sister or twin club opportunity
- Explore one Rotary Action Group relevant to your interests
- Contact the DISC for help making the right connection

3



Action 3

Pursue a Grant

- Get your club Qualification-certified (if not already)
- Send one member to Grant Management training
- Attend a District grant seminar this Rotary year

Questions? Contact your District International Service Chair (DISC) — we are here to help your club get started!

Rotary

District 5970



*"Together, we see a world where people unite and take action
to create lasting change."*

— Rotary International Vision Statement

District 5970 | International Service | Together We Serve the World

my.rotary.org/en/take-action