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The Rotary Foundation

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The Rotary Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation that supports the efforts of Rotary International to achieve world understanding and peace through international humanitarian, educational, and cultural exchange programs. It is supported solely by voluntary contributions from Rotarians and friends of the Foundation who share its vision of a better world.

The Foundation's **Humanitarian Programs** fund international Rotary club and district projects to improve the quality of life, providing health care, clean water, food, education, and other essential needs primarily in the developing world. One of the major Humanitarian Programs is **PolioPlus**, which seeks to eradicate the poliovirus worldwide. Through its **Educational Programs**, the Foundation provides funding for some 1,200 students to study abroad each year. Grants are also awarded to university teachers to teach in developing countries and for exchanges of business and professional people. Former participants in the Foundation's programs have the opportunity to continue their affiliation with Rotary as Foundation Alumni.

The mission of The Rotary Foundation is to support the efforts of Rotary International in the fulfillment of the Object of Rotary, Rotary's mission, and the achievement of world understanding and peace through local, national, and international humanitarian, educational, and cultural programs.

PROGRAMS

PolioPlus. Rotarians have mobilized by the hundreds of thousands to ensure that children are immunized against this crippling disease and that surveillance is strong, despite the poor infrastructure, extreme poverty, and civil strife of many countries. Since the PolioPlus program's inception in 1985, more than two billion children have received oral polio vaccine. To date, 210 countries, territories, and areas around the world are polio-free. As of June 2005, Rotary has committed more than \$581 million to global polio eradication. **2004-05 expenditures: \$ 33,1 million.**

PolioPlus Partners is a program that allows Rotarians to participate in the polio eradication effort by contributing to specific social mobilization and surveillance activities in polio-endemic countries. **As of 30 June 2005, clubs in 462 districts have participated in 420 PolioPlus Partners projects, supporting National Immunization Days and other polio eradication activities around the world.**

Health, Hunger and Humanity (3-H) Grants fund largescale, two- to four-year projects that enhance health, help alleviate hunger, or improve human development. Since 1978, 276 projects in 74 countries have been funded at a cost of \$71 million. **In 2004-05, no new projects were approved** as this program was in moratorium from 2001 to 2004. The moratorium was lifted on 1 January 2005. Proposals received in 2004-05 will be considered for funding in 2005-06.

Matching Grants provide matching funds for international service projects of Rotary clubs and districts. Since 1965, 22,000 Matching Grant projects in 166 countries have been funded at a cost of more than \$224 million. **In 2004-05, 2 272 new grants were approved for projects in 87 countries. Program awards were \$ 25,8 million.**

District Simplified Grants support the short-term service activities or humanitarian endeavors of districts in communities locally or internationally. This program began in 2003-04, and 772 grants have been approved for projects in 57 countries totaling more than \$11 million. **In 2004-05, 389 grants were approved. Program expenditures were \$ 6,1 million.**

Individual Grants support the travel of individual Rotarians, spouses of Rotarians, Rotaractors, and qualified Foundation alumni who are planning or implementing service projects. This program began in 2003-04, and 686 projects in 87 countries have been funded at \$2.7 million. **In 2004-05, 372 grants were approved. Program awards were \$ 1,6 million.**

Solidarity in South Asia. Shortly after the deadly tsunami struck South Asia on 26 December 2004, The Rotary Foundation established the Solidarity in South Asia fund to assist Rotarians in supporting long-term recovery efforts in affected communities. **In 2004-05, program expenditures were \$5.5 million (includes DDF).**

Rotary World Peace Scholars. Each year up to 70 scholars are sponsored to study at one of the seven Rotary Centers for International Studies in peace and conflict resolution for a master's-level degree. Since the program's inception in 2002-03, 180 Fellows from 50 different countries have participated at a cost of almost \$11 million. **In 2004-05; 64 peace fellows from 27 countries began studies at the seven Rotary Centers totaling \$ 3,5 million for the two-year program.**

Ambassadorial Scholarships. The Foundation sponsors one of the largest international scholarship programs in the world. Scholars study in a country other than their own where they serve as unofficial ambassadors of goodwill. Since 1947, more than 37,000 scholars from some 110 countries have received scholarships at a cost of more than \$462 million. **In 2004-05; 737 scholars from 70 countries studied in 60 countries. Program awards were \$ 15,6 million.**

Rotary Grants for University Teachers are awarded to faculty members to teach in a developing nation for 3 to 10 months. Since 1985, 406 university teachers have shared their expertise with a college or university in a developing country. **In 2004-05 24 university teachers from 6 countries taught in 19 countries. Program awards were \$ 396 million.**

Group Study Exchange (GSE). These annual awards are made to paired Rotary districts to provide travel expenses for a team of non-Rotarians from a variety of vocations. Rotarian hosts organize a four- to six-week itinerary of educational and cultural points of interest. Since 1965, more than 52,000 individuals (almost 12,000 teams) from 102 countries have participated at a cost of more than \$88 million. **In 2004-05; 404 teams traveled abroad. Program awards were \$ 3,4 million.**

Contributions from individuals and clubs enable The Rotary Foundation to fund projects and programs which improve and invigorate the lives of people around the world and enhance international friendship and understanding. For example, your US\$1,000 contribution can provide:

- all materials necessary for the construction of a deep borewell in India which supplies clean drinking water to more than 300 people, or
- a tree nursery in Jamaica that will annually produce 5,000 tree seedlings and increase family income for 700 farmers, or
- mattresses, pillows, and blankets to 100 homeless children in an orphanage in Bangladesh.

History of The Rotary Foundation

In 1917, Arch C. Klumph, Rotary's sixth president, proposed to the Rotary International Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, the creation of an "endowment fund for Rotary . . . for the purpose of doing good in the world in charitable, educational, and other avenues of community service." A few months later, the endowment received its first contribution of \$26.50 from the Rotary Club of Kansas City, Missouri, USA.

In 1928, when the endowment fund had grown to more than US\$5,000, the fund was renamed The Rotary Foundation, and it became a distinct entity within Rotary International. Five Trustees, including Klumph, were appointed to "hold, invest, manage, and administer all of its property. . . as a single trust, for the furtherance of the purposes of RI."

Two years later, the Foundation made its first grant of US\$500 to the International Society for Crippled Children. The ISCC — created by Rotarian Edgar F. "Daddy" Allen — later grew into the Easter Seals organization.

The Great Depression and World War II both impeded significant growth for the Foundation, but the need for promoting a lasting world peace generated great post-war interest in developing the Foundation. After Rotary founder Paul P. Harris died in 1947, contributions began pouring into Rotary International, and the Paul Harris Memorial Fund was created for the purpose of building the Foundation.

That same year, the first Foundation program was established — Fellowships for Advanced Study, which was the forerunner of the Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarships program. Then in 1965-66, three new programs were launched — Group Study Exchange, Awards for Technical Training, and Grants for Activities in Keeping with the Objective of The Rotary Foundation, which was later called Matching Grants.

The Health, Hunger and Humanity (3-H) program was launched in 1978, with the Rotary Volunteers program being created as a part of 3-H in 1980. The [PolioPlus](#) program was announced in 1984-85, and the following year saw the introduction of Rotary Grants for University Teachers. The first Peace Forums were held in 1987-88, leading to the establishment of Rotary Peace Programs. Then in 1989, 1963-64 RI President Carl P. Miller and his wife, Ruth, donated US\$1 million to establish the Discovery Grants program.

Throughout this time, support of the Foundation grew tremendously. Since that first \$26.50 donation in 1917, the Foundation has received contributions totaling more than US\$1 billion. More than US\$70 million was contributed in 2003-04 alone. To date, some 914,792 individuals have been recognized as Paul Harris Fellows — that is, someone who has contributed US\$1000 or has had that amount contributed in his or her name.

Such strong support and involvement of Rotarians worldwide ensures a secure future for The Rotary Foundation as it continues its vital work for international understanding and world peace.



Arch C. Klumph,
1916-17 president of Rotary
International and founder of
The Rotary Foundation