

OUR FOUNDATION



... FOR ROTARY LEADERS

JANUARY 2012, ISSUE 118

Strategic Partnerships: a new member of the Rotary Family

Imagine a place where no-one talks to each other; you do not even know the name of the neighbor in the adjacent apartment. Such a neighborhood without community is a sterile anomie where the idea of 'everyone for themselves' dominates. It is probably somewhere overwhelmed with conflict, poverty and ill-health. Such places must learn to Reach Within and Embrace Humanity.

RI President Kalyan places great importance on the family through his speeches and writing. Family is the building block for community according to Banerjee. It is from family that we begin to suffuse the concept of community. It is our first partnership.

At this time in our history, other partnerships are emerging to enable us to change history by empowering Rotarians to achieve even more within their communities. Such partnerships are not necessarily new but build on previous successful experiences. They help provide us with a new family of dedicated NGOs committed to making this world a better place.

Calum Thomson, Editor, OFN

OUR FOUNDATION
IS ONE OF THE MONTHLY
FEATURES OF THE
ROTARY GLOBAL
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New Strategic Partners- Mercy Ships

Rotarians will help improve the delivery of vital health care services to West Africa through a new strategic partnership between The Rotary Foundation and the global charity Mercy Ships.

Through the partnership, the Foundation will offer packaged global grants for Rotary clubs and districts to assemble vocational training teams of medical professionals. These teams will perform or assist in life-changing surgeries. The Rotarian volunteers will also work to enhance the skills of local health care professionals.



The initial projects will take place in West Africa, the area of operations for the charity's 16,500-ton state-of-the-art hospital ship, Africa Mercy, now based in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

"This strategic partnership with Mercy Ships enables Rotary to work with a globally recognized leader in the delivery of vital medical and surgical care to the world's most vulnerable populations," says Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair William B. Boyd. "It allows Rotary club members to directly contribute their valuable expertise and skills within the framework of a proven and highly successful health care program."

Founded in 1978, Mercy Ships uses its hospital ships to deliver free, world-class health care and assistance in capacity building and sustainable development to developing countries. The charity has worked in more than 70 countries, performing services that have had an impact on more than 2.9 million people. Each year, more than 1,200 surgeons, dentists, nurses, health care trainers, teachers, cooks, seamen, engineers, or agriculturalists volunteer their time and skills.

"Mercy Ships is honored to be chosen by The Rotary Foundation as a strategic partner for disease prevention and treatment," says Don Stephens, president and founder of the charity. "The scope of Rotary's service to humanity is truly monumental, and it is my belief that the synergy of our organizations working together will be an even greater force to increase health care delivery systems in West Africa."

continued



Rotary and Mercy Ships

Previous projects

Rotarians have a record of working with Mercy Ships, carrying out projects in several countries. The Rotary clubs of Jacksonville, Florida, USA, and Tema, Accra, Ghana, helped equip the Africa Mercy in 2007 to provide medical aid in Ghana. Jacksonville Rotarians also partnered with the Rotary Club of Monrovia, Liberia, to support eye and facial surgeries for more than 1,200 patients in Monrovia from 2008 to 2011.

Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland named Mercy Ships its Charity of Choice in 2005-06.

Rotary Foundation Global Grants support large, international projects with sustainable, high-impact outcomes in Rotary's areas of focus. Packaged global grants developed by the Foundation and Mercy Ships will directly support the disease prevention and treatment area of focus. Because the administrative work of designing the project and finding a partnering organization has already been done, Rotary clubs and districts can focus on identifying beneficiaries, providing technical expertise or direct service, and publicizing the effort.



Source: Rotary.org

Strategic Partnerships...

I was intrigued recently to read about the new Strategic Partnership with Mercy Ships under Future Vision (see pp 2/3). It brought back memories of my time as a Grants Chair and the long hours working on a health project in Sierra Leone.

As stated in the official announcement, Mercy Ships was a so-called ‘Charity of Choice’ for RIBI in 2005/06. One Club- The Rotary Club of Bathgate-demonstrated how we can effectively work with partner organizations when they embarked on a joint project with the Rotary Club of Freetown, Sierra Leone in conjunction with Mercy Ships to help women in need of specialized surgery following complications during childbirth. The Bathgate club raised enough money to provide up to 50 VVF (Vesico-vaginal fistula) surgeries for women at the Aberdeen West African Fistula Centre run by Mercy Ships.



Government Minister Kabia and Project Coordinator Rene Lako in 2007.

They worked diligently and actively with The Rotary Foundation to change young women’s lives for ever. They showed why The Foundation exists by using the Foundation’s Matching Grants program to increase our capacity to serve others. The Sierra Leone Minister of Health Dr Saccoh Kabia visited the Aberdeen West African Fistula Centre. The minister’s visit was a formal recognition of the Fistula Centre and he went out of his way to laud Rotarians for their service to community through their contributions to the work of the Fistula Centre.

Host project coordinator and a Rotarian member of the Freetown club at the time, Rene Lako said: “the Rotary club of Freetown also has a long standing relationship with Mercy Ships and is the host club for the implementation of the Rotary International matching grant. Rotary clubs across Great Britain and Ireland have been involved with Mercy Ships since 2006 when the organisation chose to make the charity its international fundraising partner that year.”

continued



...building on past successes

Lako would go on to explain exactly what the project would achieve: “These surgeries will enable the women to lead normal lives again as many are outcast from their families and communities due to the complexities of incontinence following obstructed labour.”

As in all successful projects, added benefits flowed—over the next few months later, no less than 13 teams of Rotarians from across the UK visited the Fistula Centre and helped to build an extension to the facility, called the Hostel of Hope. Teams of Rotarians also improved existing facilities at the Fistula Centre by providing extra underground water storage tanks and added improvements to the recently constructed h o s t e l . Additionally, funds were raised to build two classrooms at the nearby Aberdeen Municipal School.



Sir James Young Simpson—medical pioneer

“You can’t do matching grants projects in Sierra Leone” declared a Rotary curmudgeon at a British district meeting a few weeks later, “Oh Yes you can” retorted our friends from Bathgate, “and let us tell you about it”. And so another myth was put to rest.

The medical pioneer Sir James Young Simpson, who discovered the anaesthetic properties in chloroform was born in Bathgate in 1811. Simpson’s discovery revolutionised the medical world and ENABLED more and more operations to proceed pain-free. What more appropriate town to pioneer a partnership with one of the outstanding medical NGOs in the world?

Simpson helped reduce suffering and declared that he was an opponent of pain—just as we do through Our Foundation.



Progress in National Government Co-operation



After the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Perth, the governments of Australia, Canada, and Nigeria, along with the Gates Foundation, made a combined pledge of more than US\$100 million in new funds for polio eradication. Standing with Canadian Rotarian and polio survivor Ramesh Ferris (center) are Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, British Prime Minister David Cameron, Pakistani Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani, and Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard. (see photo opposite)

Australian Rotarians and the Global Poverty Project carried out a petition drive to persuade world leaders to fully fund the critical work of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. Almost 25,000 supporters signed the petition, resulting in a \$20,000 contribution to Rotary's challenge by the Rotary Club of Crawley, Western Australia, which had offered to donate A\$1 (about US\$1) for each signature.

The Global Poverty Project's End of Polio Concert on 28 October in Perth, raised additional funds. The concert coincided with the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Perth; Rotarians had teamed up with the group to encourage government leaders to put polio eradication on the agenda. Following the meeting, the governments of Australia, Canada, and Nigeria, along with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, announced a combined pledge of more than \$100 million to support polio eradication efforts.

"Global collaboration has ensured that eradication is within reach," says Michael Sheldrick, the Global Poverty Project's polio campaign manager and a Crawley club member. "Our generation has a chance to realize a historic opportunity and ensure that no one else ever has to fear this disease. That's why it's vital we commit to finish the job."

"Our generation has a chance to realize a historic opportunity and ensure that no one else ever has to fear this disease. "

Michael Sheldrick



RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge totals*

US\$195.2M

*As of 11 November 2011

Polio Facts & Figures

Area Number of cases in 2011

Afghanistan 47

India 1

Nigeria 42

Pakistan 136

Non-endemic countries 276

Total worldwide 502

(Data as of 2 November/World Health Organization)

source: www.polioeradication.org.

Love Walker For Polio

The Mission: to raise funds for the \$200 million Challenge to END POLIO NOW by walking around Taiwan.

Walter Hung, a member of the Rotaract Club of Kai Tak, Hong Kong, District 3450 has undertaken to complete this huge task. He will depart from Hong Kong on Friday the 16th of December for Taipei, Taiwan to support our Polio Eradication campaign.

The “walk” starts from Taipei at its the most southern point proceeding throughout the country and then back to Taipei. The total distance covered is 1,000 kilometres (650 miles) and arriving hopefully back in Taipei on the 7th of January.

Walter will be on his own for the entire 22 days walk. and has established a fundraising goal of HK\$500,000 (\$60,000 US).



Walter’s aims are threefold:

- To raise funds for END POLIO NOW
- To say hello to the people of Taiwan
- To promote Rotary co-operation and exchange between Rotarians in Taiwan and Hong Kong

Visit the Rotaract Club of Kai Tak’s facebook page—
<https://www.facebook.com/rackaitak>



Family is the building block of the community

writes RI President Kalyan Banerjee

In late August, Binota and I were in Ghana, where Rotary Foundation Trustee Vice Chair Sam Okudzeto and enthusiastic local Rotarians took us to the ribbon-cutting for a water project in a little village, Abutia Teti, about 60 miles from Accra. We arrived at about 11 a.m., and the whole village seemed to be there. Everyone had been waiting since early morning to welcome us. In the past, the women had to walk over 3 miles to carry pails of water from a river. Now they had a supply of safe, clean water from tube wells in the village itself. It was a simple but effective project in which Rotary and USAID had worked together. But what struck us most that day was family: The men, the women, the children were all there together, dancing, singing, and welcoming us. It made me think about how everywhere around the world, people come together in families, and families join together as communities.



Rotary International
President Kalyan
Banerjee

And this made me happy that the first of our emphases in this Rotary year is the family, because the family is where everything begins. It is where life begins, it is where our day begins, and it is where our Rotary service must begin. Because it is the family, and not the individual, that is the building block of the community – and of Rotary.

It is one of my great priorities to encourage the involvement of families in Rotary service. I feel incredibly strongly that Rotary should never, ever come between the Rotarian and the family. Rotary service should be something that brings the family closer together. For myself, if I cannot bring Binota with me to a Rotary event, it's simple – I don't go! Rotary is not just for me; it is for both of us. This is why I encourage districts to welcome families at district conferences, to involve spouses and children in service projects, and to plan meeting times with families in mind. The more that families are involved in Rotary, the more Rotary will thrive – today and tomorrow.

What is Rotary about? It's about so many things, but at its core, Rotary is about these words: Love your neighbor as yourself. Rotary is about love, and that love has to start with us – and with those closest to us.



Major Online contributions

Rotarians generously made online contributions of more than US\$2.6 million to The Challenge during the week of 18-24 October, in observance of World Polio Day on 24 October. The Rotary Foundation offered double Paul Harris Fellow recognition for online contributions of \$100 or more.

Rotarians were required to be registered on the Member Access Portal before making a contribution. Changes to the Foundation's online contribution system enabled donors for the first time to contribute in 12 different currencies. Contributions were received from Rotarians in 105 countries; the top five giving countries were the United States, Brazil, Canada, Mexico, and the Philippines.

Rotarians who registered on Member Access between 14 September and 14 October were eligible to win 1,000 extra Foundation recognition points through a special drawing. The winner was a Rotarian in Nepal who has chosen to remain anonymous.





Make Giving to our Foundation an Annual Tradition says Trustee Chair Bill Boyd

As Rotarians, we often reduce our words to initials. We talk of GSEs, VTTs, NIDs, and PHFs. Our district officers are DGs, DGEs, and DGNs, and in Evanston we have a GS. We have plenty of PDGs and an occasional PRIP. I am sure you could add many more.



This month, I would like to focus on another set of initials: EREY. The words are Every Rotarian, Every Year, and they encourage every one of us to make an annual contribution to our Foundation. Despite the economic problems and the awful natural disasters, our giving to the Annual Programs Fund last year was the second highest in history. Thank you for your confidence that we are building a Foundation that will be stronger and even more effective in the future.

I read a lot of district and zone newsletters, and I smiled at a quote in a recent newsletter from District 7600, in Virginia, USA. In it, Bill Billings talked about how Rotary became more important to him as he became more involved. He went on to say, “These are my brightest days in Rotary because now I am

“Thank you for your confidence that we are building a Foundation that will be stronger and even more effective in the future.”

PRIP Bill Boyd

learning what I can do for Rotary. I give to The Rotary Foundation every year because it feels so good.” At this point, his sense of humor came through. I am not sure if every country has telemarketing, but if yours does, you will appreciate Bill’s next words: “But I also give to the Foundation because it is the best defense against annoying telemarketers. When they call me I simply say, ‘I give my money to The Rotary Foundation, but thanks for calling and have a nice day.’ Click!”

Bill has made our Rotary Foundation his charity of choice. I hope you will too.



Polio Progress in Pakistan...

Dear Rotary family,

Media coverage in The News (reproduced at the end) shows the number of cases have increased to 148, which is now more than the 144 cases last year. This is a matter of great concern for Rotarians and global partners all over the world. We have to spread the polio awareness message all over the country and have to reach out to the general public.

Our friends from RI District 7870 (USA) joined us during the World Polio Day (October 24) and associated polio National Immunization Days (NIDs). PDG Joe & Lori Pratt and PP Steve & Deb Puderbaugh spoke at the World Polio Day Seminar organized by Rotary Club of Lahore Garrison, participated in the Polio Awareness Walk and administered polio drops in Lahore and Faisalabad. They are now back in the USA and are spreading the message there. More Rotarian friends are expected to come and participate in the NIDs in 2012.

PP Steve and Deb Puderbaugh also started a Facebook Group (Steve and Deb in Pakistan), which provides information about their visit to Pakistan including their participation in polio awareness and eradication activities.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/273139289383772/>

We visited our village in Faisalabad on the Eid day on November 7, and distributed sweets and polio awareness items such as polio mugs, badges and polio story books as gifts among the children. Children liked their gifts very much. We have to combine our polio awareness message with other festivities on such happy occasions. Photographs are available at the link below.

continued



...as reported by IPDG Shehzad Ahmed

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10150389609744510.381586.542089509&type=3&saved>

"Make Pakistan Polio Free" group has been created on Facebook for polio awareness. Rotarian as well as non-Rotarian friends from Pakistan and abroad have joined the group to show their support. Please visit the link below for details.



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/172917472784836/>

Rotarians in our District should remain committed to the cause and should continue working together till we achieve our goal of "Polio-Free Pakistan" and "Polio-Free Afghanistan."

Regards,

PDG Shehzad Ahmed, RI District 3272, Rotary Club of Lahore Garrison





Giving Thanks

by Don Mebus



Past RI Director
and 2012 RRFC In-
stitute Moderator
Don Mebus

Many cultures, maybe even most cultures, have a time of giving thanks for successful growing seasons and harvests. Historically, agriculture has played a very important role in the success or failure of a society. When harvests are fruitful, it is appropriate to take time to celebrate and more importantly, appreciate the bounty resulting from the gifts of nature and the efforts of those who have made this possible. In looking up a list of harvest festivals worldwide, we find a large number of them.

In Korea, there is Chuseok, Mid Autumn Festival in China and Vietnam, Harvest Festival in the United Kingdom, Benichon in some of French speaking Switzerland, Dangdag voor Gewas en Arbeid in the Netherlands, Sankranti, Onam, Pongal and Puthari just to name a few in India, Gawai Dayak in Malaysia, Kadayawan in the Philippines, Koshogatsu in Japan, several festivals in Australia including Wheat, Hops, Grapes and Lavender Festivals, Argungu in Nigeria, Thanksgiving in Canada and US. There are many, many more around the world.

“I wish to express my gratitude to all of you who have worked so tirelessly to make our Foundation flourishing and fruitful.”

All of us have much in common. When we look at the basics of life, everyone worldwide wishes to satisfy the need for fundamentals. Food, clean water, health, education, peace and the opportunity for economic development are areas that we all have in common. All of us want the best for our children. Our new Future Vision plan will give us the ways and means to achieve these goals.

Worldwide, we are all thankful for our friends, the opportunities that we have, and for the sustenance and joys of life. While many ways exist to express our thanks, one of the best ways is for us to share with others.

At this time of Thanksgiving in my culture, I wish to express my gratitude to all of you who have worked so tirelessly to make our Foundation flourishing and fruitful. Thank you to all of you who have shared of your time and your talent. Thank you for having a direct role in improving the lives of others. Thank you!



Future Vision Pilot Districts -Packaged Global Grants with Oikocredit International

The application for packaged global grants with Oikocredit International is now available online. Oikocredit, a Netherlands-based organization that provides financing to microfinance institutions (MFIs) worldwide, is one of The Rotary Foundation's strategic partners under the Future Vision Plan.



Through packaged global grants, Rotarians will collaborate with select Oikocredit-affiliated MFIs in India, the Philippines, and Uruguay. Together, the MFIs and Rotarians will identify local barriers to economic development and create targeted training programs to help borrowers overcome them. Up to four grants of between US\$20,000 and US\$50,000 each will be awarded annually. The grants are fully funded by world fund. No cash or DDF match is required. These grants, available to Future Vision pilot districts only, will support the economic and community development area of focus. Encourage your eligible clubs to apply to this unique opportunity.



Global Grants in Guatemala

A global grant project that provided neonatal medical equipment to a Guatemalan hospital is helping to safeguard the lives of newborns and educating community residents about preventive health.

The US\$54,322 project -- sponsored by the Rotary clubs of Guatemala Norte and Sunnyvale, California, USA -- provided Hospitalito Atilán in Santiago Atilán an oxygen generator, infant incubator, and diagnostic devices, along with training to hospital staff in how to use and maintain the equipment.

As part of the effort, the Guatemala Norte club arranged for production of an educational DVD in Tz'utujil, the language spoken by the local Mayan community. Shown in the hospital's waiting room, the DVD covers nutrition, common illnesses, maternal and child health, hygiene, and issues such as alcoholism and domestic violence. That component of the project was inspired by the success of a previous Matching Grant effort involving the two clubs, which had distributed an educational DVD on health-related topics to a different Mayan community.

DVD's impact

Funded under the Future Vision pilot, the effort supports Rotary's disease prevention and treatment area of focus. Its impact, sponsors say, will reduce the number of people requiring medical care for routine, preventable conditions and enable the hospital's doctors to focus on treating patients with more serious health problems.

continued



Disease Prevention Project in action



“As all patients generally are accompanied by several family members, the impact and delivery of the messages are guaranteed,” says Josef Fischer, a Guatemala Norte Rotarian with the Hospitalito Atitlán project. “The idea was to re-create situations in their everyday environment [as realistically as possible], so they are able to identify themselves in individual scenes.” Fischer says the DVD is also used in other clinics and by the regional health department and churches.

In addition, the video will be shown in the town’s municipal auditorium, and has the potential to reach 45,000 community residents through local cable TV. It also could be adapted for use in other communities in Central America and southern Mexico, say the project’s sponsors.

The video’s messages are “excellent” and present many new ideas for Santiago Atitlán, says Lyn Dickey, a representative of a community foundation that operates the hospital.

Source: rotary.org



Common Agenda

by Trustee Ashok Mahajan

“The common bond that unites Rotarians worldwide is the spirit of service”.

Trustee Ashok Mahajan

The death knell for polio was sounded in Perth, Australia October 2011, when leaders from 54 Commonwealth Countries met to discuss strategies to strengthen the ties between the nations. The Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group (EPG), which was set up by the Commonwealth Heads of Governments during the summit in Trinidad and Tobago in 2009, aims to sharpen the impact the nations can have and raise the profile of the member countries. Commonwealth summit is relevant because the issues they address concern some of the biggest disease and health system challenges on the global health agenda. The leaders broker consensus between the developed and developing countries that make up the Commonwealth. They also collect and articulate the issues of relevance to small states enabling them to play an active role in the global debate on health. Polio eradication is one such issue.

The Secretary General of the Commonwealth is Mr. Kamallesh Sharma an Indian Foreign Service diplomat, who has been appointed by the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). Today, more than ever the member nations are monitoring our progress in eliminating polio closely. The Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Health (CACH) plays a crucial role in advising the Commonwealth Secretariat on matters of public health concern and interest to the Commonwealth. It is made up of representatives from governments, regional organisations and Civil Society Organisations (CSO's).

The year 2011 is coming to an end. Rotarians in India have done themselves proud by limiting the polio cases to just one this year. However, India will still be considered polio endemic country until we eradicate the disease. The World Polio Day, which was celebrated on October 24, 2011, marks the birth anniversary of Dr. Albert Sabin, the inventor of



the polio vaccine. The day was celebrated all over India by various districts. But celebrations must be accompanied by actions that will enable us to celebrate the eradication of polio in the years to come. This needs your urgent help in bridging the funding gap of US \$520 million.

The common bond that unites Rotarians worldwide is the spirit of service. The common agenda for Rotarians in India today is eradication of polio. The common man in your neighbourhood is dependent on Rotary's help in eradicating polio. The common belief amongst people in the community is that Rotarians are people who will fulfill their promises. The most common wealth in our country can be said to be the children. They have to grow up and move to shape the future of your home, our country and the world at large. Common sense tells us that if we lose the initiative this year in eradicating polio, then we will incur the wrath of the others in the Commonwealth nations and rest of the world. The activities associated with polio eradication are commonplace. But what is unique is the determination of just 1.2 million Rotarians to bring relief to the balance 7 billion people on this earth by eradicating polio.

Our common agenda is to get rid of polio now. Don't you want to be a part of this history?





Rotary's \$200million challenge...

Many Rotarians have gone to extremes to raise money for Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge.

But Australian Rotarian Robert Pennicott set a record with his fundraising venture. Pennicott, fellow Tasmanian Mick Souter, and cameraman Zorro Gamarnik became the first people to circumnavigate Australia in boats powered by outboard motors.



Pennicott, a member of the Rotary Club of Kingston, and Souter piloted two 17-foot-long inflatable dinghies, propelled by twin 60-horsepower engines, on the 12,000-mile journey around the Australian continent (including the island state of Tasmania). They began in Sydney on 2 June and arrived back on 11 September.

"Rotarians have worked tirelessly toward eradicating polio for the past 25 years. With now just 1 percent to go, I decided to do something different and a bit 'out there' to try to raise a bit of money," Pennicott said. "I believe it's the weird and wacky ideas that get people talking, and I don't think they come much crazier than traveling around Australia in a rubber dinghy."

The effort, dubbed Follow the Yellow Boat Road, has raised more than \$250,000 to date, and fundraising will continue for several months. Rotary's challenge, which seeks to match \$355 million in grants from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, will receive 92 percent of the proceeds; the remainder will support nature conservation projects through a foundation Pennicott established in May. Trip sponsors included National Geographic Traveler, Tourism Australia, branding firm Green Team, and communications company Telstra.

continued



...success stories

Pennicott, a tourism entrepreneur who owns Pennicott Wilderness Journeys, began planning the adventure three years ago. He invested over \$100,000 of his own money, which covered the cost of the voyage itself.

The two bright-yellow dinghies, Polio I and Polio II, bore the Rotary emblem on their hulls; it also was emblazoned on the team's jackets and all promotional materials. Gamarnik shot footage of the entire journey, producing videos of each leg of the trip for a blog. Satellite tracking allowed visitors to follow the boats' daily progress.

Along the way, business colleagues, family members, and friends joined the team for legs of the trip. Rotarians from District 9830 (Tasmania) organized much of the land-side support, and Rotarians around the continent hosted the travelers at various ports of call. At each stop, Pennicott spoke to media and the general public about Rotary and polio eradication.

"A large part of this journey has been about raising awareness of Rotary's work with polio eradication," Pennicott said. "As we traveled around Australia, I presented to thousands and thousands of people. With polio no longer in the face of everyday Australians, it's been important to educate the public about the effects of the disease and why we need them to support our efforts to wipe it out completely.

"Ultimately, it's exciting to think that we could see polio wiped from the face of the planet in our lifetime," he added. "Bill Gates wouldn't have pledged \$355 million if he wasn't confident that the disease could be eradicated. We really are just this close."

Source: rotary.org



Dining for a Cause in Kolkata

“Make your having dinner out become the event of the night, instead of just the beginning,” said John Walters, the famous British musician. Every year since 1985, Rotarians have celebrated an evening during the Zone Institute as the Major Donor Dinner Nite. It was from 1995 that the event also became a fund raising evening. John Walters also said, “Too many people just eat to consume calories. Try dining for a change.” What TRF Trustee John Germ addressing TRF Major Donor Dinner, Rotary Zone Institute, Kolkata. this would mean is dining becomes more enjoyable when it is with a group of like-minded persons who get together for a cause.

Nearly 70 percent of the earth is covered by water and so for the past few years, it has become a practice to host the Major Donor Dinner event on the river which is flowing through the host city. The effect has always been good. We saw that in Goa, Bangkok and now in Kolkata. The evening titled ‘Riviera on the Hooghly’ was spectacular. The Hooghly River is a distributary of the Ganges in West Bengal. In its upper reaches the river is generally known as the Bhāgirathi, until it reaches Hooghly. Like the rest of the Ganges, the Bhāgirathi-Hooghly is considered sacred to Hindus, and its water is considered holy.

Every action of The Rotary Foundation can be considered holy as it serves humanity all over the world. So, on Thursday, November 17, 2011, the Rotarians assembled on the barge anchored safely in mid-river and exchanged pleasantries with RI President Kalyan Banerjee, TRF Trustee John Germ, PRIP Rajendra K Saboo, RI General Secretary John Hewko and a host of other leaders including RI Directors Y.P. Das and Shekhar Mehta. The mood was upbeat. The climate was perfect and the music was soothing. The atmosphere was conducive for dining and talking about how TRF has changed the way people live. It is said that dining is not merely a material pleasure. Dining well gives a spectacular joy to life and contributes immensely to goodwill and happy companionship. It is of great importance to the morale. This mood of the evening made Rotarians pledge US \$545,000 to TRF. As the barge was stationary, no one can claim that their nod was induced by the rocking of the waves!

Will Rogers, the American comedian said, “An onion can make people cry, but there has never been a vegetable invented to make them laugh.” I will say that a well balanced dinner in an ambience of friendship makes people give. The dinner and the menu by themselves may be insignificant when compared to the cause for which the Rotarians assemble for this event year after year.

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\$54,000 raised for Our Foundation



Foundation Trustee John Germ surrounded by other Rotary senior leaders addresses the recent RI Institute at Kolkata



“Too many people just eat to consume calories. Try dining for a change.”

Trustee John Germ



Rotary Peace Centers Dinner

Successful dinner gatherings to raise support for Rotary Peace Centers were held in New York City and Palms Springs in November 2011.

On 5 November, 48 Rotarians and friends attended a dinner in New York City at the Millennium UN Plaza Hotel and hosted by RPCMGI Committee member Linda Bradley and Trustee chairman Bill Boyd. The guests received updates on the success of Peace Centers by Peace Fellow alumni Rochelle Arms and Arthur Romano. There was also an update on the Major Gifts Initiative (now at \$62 million) by Linda Bradley.





Important Information Regarding 2011 Calendar Year-End Gifts

The deadline for contributions to be credited to The Rotary Foundation for calendar year ending 31 December 2011 are as follows:

Checks:

Must be postmarked on or prior to 31 December 2011 and received by the Foundation by Friday, 6 January 2012.

Credit Card Contributions:

Via www.rotary.org – available in 12 currencies. Must be authorized prior to 31 December 2011, midnight CST. (Please note gifts received via rotary.org will only benefit the holder of the log-in.)

Via fax (847-328-4101), phone (866-976-8279) or email (contact.center@rotary.org) to World Headquarters - must be received and authorized prior to the close of business on 31 December 2011.

Electronic Funds Transfers:

Must be initiated prior to 31 December 2011 and received by Tuesday, 03 January 2012. For Wire transfer account details please contact The Rotary Foundation.

Securities:

Must be received prior to 31 December 2011, which is a Saturday this year and the financial markets are likely to close early on 30 December. Instructions for the US can be found at:

http://www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en_pdf/trf_public_securities_form_usa.pdf . Instructions for Canadians can be found at: http://www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en_pdf/trf_stock_procedures_canada.pdf or by visiting www.rotary.org and searching for stock transfer.

Special donation instructions for Charitable Gift Annuities and Charitable Remainder Unitrusts can be obtained by emailing plannedgiving@rotary.org or calling 847-866-3100.



Rotary Peace Center Alumni - Post-Fellowship Em-

Statistics are for all alumni through the 2009-11 class, with the exception of USAL peace fellows, who just completed their AFEs. These statistics are accurate as of 1 December 2011.

There are 582 peace fellows that have reported their current position to The Rotary Foundation (out of 608 total living alumni) or 96%.

Of these 582 peace fellows:

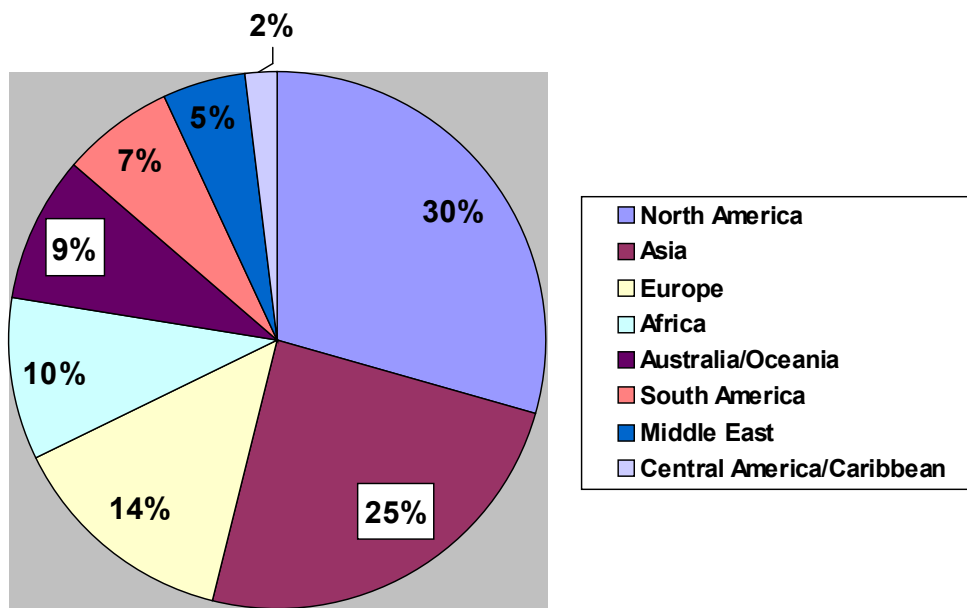
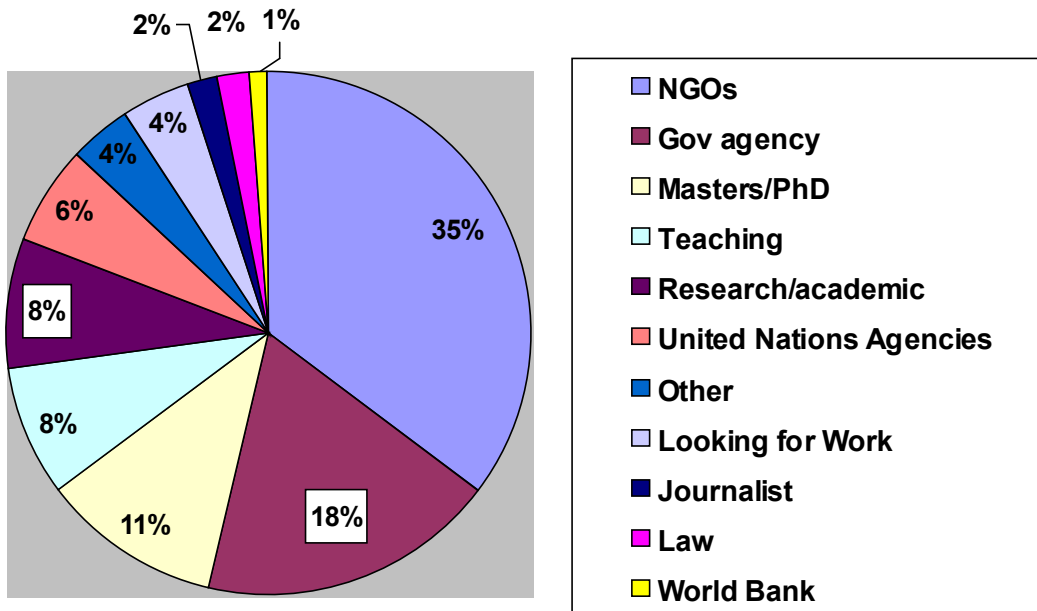
- 202 (35%) work for NGOs or other peace-related organizations
- 109 (18%) work for a government agency
- 62 (11%) are pursuing additional advanced degrees in peace-related fields
- 46 (8%) are teachers/professors
- 44 (8%) work in research or academic support positions
- 37 (6%) work for United Nations agencies
- 11 (2%) are lawyers or work in a law-related field
- 11 (2%) are journalists
- 7 (1%) work for the World Bank
- 27 (4%) defy easy categorization; these include: bankers, human resource professionals, and business owners
- 26 (4%) reported they are actively looking for work in the field

Alumni find work around the world:

- 172 (30%) reside in North America
- 143 (25%) reside in Asia
- 79 (14%) reside in Europe
- 60 (10%) reside in Africa
- 50 (9%) reside in Australia and Oceania
- 42 (7%) reside in South America
- 26 (5%) reside in the Middle East
- 10 (2%) reside Central America and the Caribbean



Rotary Peace Fellow Alumni Employment and Location





Our Rotary Peace Fellow Alumni at the Rotary Institutes



Marios Antoniou, Cyprus, Rotary Peace Fellow, 2008-10, Duke University / University of North Carolina, USA, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Nicosia Salamis, Cyprus, District 2450

Zone 17 & 18A Rotary Institute in Leicester, UK



Vanessa Contopulos, USA, Rotary Peace Fellow, 2008-10, University of Bradford, UK, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Temecula, USA, District 5330

Zone 25 & 26 Rotary Institute in Palm Springs, CA, USA



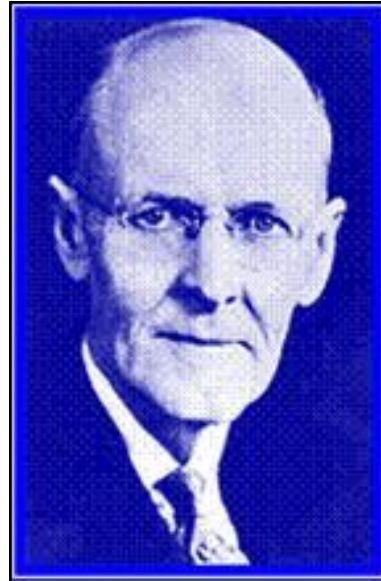
Eduardo R. DaCosta, Brazil, Rotary Peace Fellow, 2010-12, Duke University / University of North Carolina, USA, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Belem Norte, Brazil, District 4720

Zone 33 & 34 Rotary Institute in Reston, VA, USA

WHAT PAUL HARRIS SAID...

“The inventor of the first Rotary club was more conscious of its deficiencies than anyone else could have been; so conscious of them that he could not have thrown down his tools if he had wanted to do so. He kept on.”

Paul P Harris, This Rotarian Age (p. 77)



RIPP (1910-12) Paul P. Harris (Founder of Rotary) (law), Rotary Club of Chicago, Illinois, USA.
ROTARY VISION: TO HARNESS THE GREAT POWER OF FRIENDSHIP TO HELP DO THE WORLD'S WORK.

Portentous words indeed from the founder of Rotary and very apposite to our emerging Future Vision and our END POLIO NOW campaign - **“he kept on”**.



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www.historycomment.org

What Paul Harris Said is a monthly feature of the Rotary Global History Fellowship

OUR FOUNDATION

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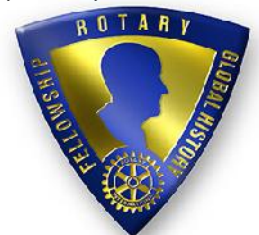
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It has often mystified me why every year one learns of yet another President-elect who refuses to attend PETS. I appreciate that some Presidents-elect may well be taking on the task for a second or even third time and may feel they 'know it all'. But my simple philosophy is this: Why deny yourself the opportunity to find out something new? Every training event is a potential chance to learn from others, share success stories, etc.—why give up that prospect?

And just to emphasise this, I hereby proudly display my certificate of attendance at a recent Rotary Foundation. FV preparation seminar .

Calum Thomson, Editor, OFN



A MONTHLY FEATURE OF THE ROTARY
GLOBAL HISTORY FELLOWSHIP (RGHF).