

OUR FOUNDATION



... FOR ROTARY LEADERS

JULY 2011, ISSUE 109

LET'S BEGIN TO 'MERGE'

Thank goodness for the highway, freeway or motorway. These wondrous roads allow some of us (in our cars or on public transportation) to travel quickly and efficiently around our communities and countries.

But as we travel from one place to another we will always need to merge. See pages 2 - 3 as 2011-12 RI President Kalyan Banerjee begins to take up the reins seamlessly and merges the Rotary year smoothly and with continuity.

Just as the traffic merges from a two lane road into a single carriageway, so our own Rotary Districts will soon also need to merge. To merge into The Foundation's Future Vision.

When we are in our cars, it makes sense to merge efficiently using our skills and our goodwill to enable everyone to make it to their destination. By helping each other we can most effectively reach our destination..And it surely makes equal sense that we begin to plan the merging of our pilot and non pilot districts together for 2013.

One important example is the new concept of Vocational Training Teams (VTI). See pages 20-21. Can we consider embracing the idea of focussed training as part of our service projects over the next two years for all our districts? Such a move will help to efficiently and effectively ensure a smooth and painless transition.

Have a smooth ride!



*Calum Thomson,
Editor*

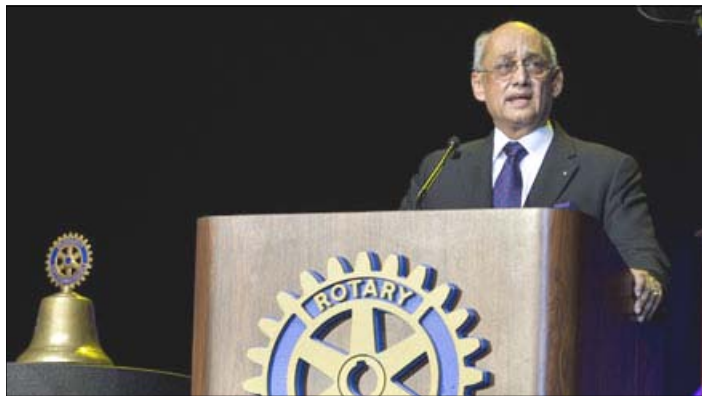
OUR FOUNDATION
IS ONE OF THE MONTHLY
FEATURES OF THE
ROTARY GLOBAL
HISTORY FELLOWSHIP.

WWW.OURFOUNDATION.INFO





BANERJEE ADDRESSES ROTARIANS IN NEW ORLEANS



2011-2012 RI President Kalyan Banerjee

Good morning and *namaskar*, as we say in India.

Standing up here before all of you is without a doubt one of the most incredible moments I have had in Rotary. To see all of you, so many people, my brothers and sisters of Rotary, from so many nations, gathered here in New Orleans under the flag of Rotary, is simply amazing. And to have the call to serve as the first among equals in this great organization in the coming Rotary year is also a truly humbling experience.

You know, coming into this assignment in Rotary right now, I can tell you that our President Ray, our own Rotary cowboy, is going to be a tough, tough act to follow. But today at least I've got the advantage, I think, because if there is anything bigger, better, and bolder than a cowboy, it is a cowboy and an Indian together.

And here in New Orleans, we've got a lot of history, and even a lot of Rotary history as well. As I was preparing my remarks, I had a look at the proceedings of the last RI Convention held here, in 1976, when Ernesto Imbassahy de Mello of Brazil was the president of Rotary and Gerald Ford was president of America, which was celebrating its bicentennial. President Ford, who was himself a Rotarian, was to come to address the convention, but at the last moment he had to drop out and be replaced by another speaker, who quoted a valedictory speech given by a young lady at a Mississippi high school, who had said: —"The trouble in America today is not so much the noise of the bad as the silence of the good."

Well, speaking from a perspective of more than 34 years down the line and also of a somewhat different culture to that of the young lady at the high school, I would agree that it *is* a problem, but I would not call it a problem that is peculiar to the United States. It's true, really, all around the world, that we hear much more about what is wrong with the world than about what is right. We notice much more the people who don't care than the people who do. The people who create trouble rather than the people who get things right.

But here in New Orleans today, we have abundant evidence that there are people who *do* care — people who *are* doing what is right — people who *are* doing good. And let me tell you, the good that you are doing in this world of ours is making a difference.

Let me ask you, if I may: Why are we here today? Indeed, why are we all in Rotary? I believe we are here because we care, and because we see both what's wrong in the world, and what's right. And we want to carry forward what's good, build on it, expand on it, help it grow — while taking a hard look at what needs to be changed in our lives and then doing

—
**THE TROUBLE
TODAY IS
NOT SO MUCH
THE NOISE
OF THE BAD
AS THE
SILENCE OF
THE GOOD.**
—



what we can to change it.

Because at its core, I think, Rotary is about change. It’s about not being content with things as they are. It’s about not going gently into that good night.

A man named David Selbourne, a British social commentator and historian, wrote a little book called *Moral Evasion*. And in it, he listed 11 reasons why people avoid making moral judgments, why they avoid looking at something and saying, this is not right and we must do something about it. That sounds familiar, doesn’t it? Let me recount a few of those reasons:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>—There is no quick fix.</p> <p>—There is nothing you can do about it.</p> <p>—The problem is much more complex than you think.</p> | <p>—You are focusing on the wrong issue.</p> <p>—It has never been any different.</p> <p>—And, of course, the perennial, —Who are you to talk?</p> |
|---|--|

Well, who indeed are we to talk? Who *are* we? We are Rotarians.

We are the doers of our communities, the leaders, the ones who are most involved, who see the problems and have the means to find the solutions. As our strategic plan so elegantly and aptly defines it: We are a worldwide network of inspired individuals who translate their passions into relevant social causes to change lives in communities.



I’m fond of quoting Mahatma Gandhi, who said, — ***“You must be the change you wish to see in the world.”*** I believe we are in Rotary to change the world — for why else would we be Rotarians?

We are not here to listen to the naysayers, the doom-mongers, those who say the world can be no better than it is, so why even try to change? We are here because we *believe* in change. And let me tell you, my brothers and sisters — that change, any real change, has to come from us, starting from *within* us, from *inside* each one of us.

Because, if what we want is a world with more kindness, more caring, more joy, and more love — well, if we want all of those things in our world, we have to put them there! — Where do we find those things? you ask. Well, I believe we will find them by looking within ourselves. *That’s* where the search begins.

In order to achieve anything in this world, a person has to use all the resources he or she can draw on. And the only place to start is with ourselves and within ourselves. And the questions we need to ask ourselves are: Why am I here? Why are you here? I believe it is because we all seek a sense of fulfilment in our lives, and to achieve that fulfilment, we have to find harmony between our inner self and the outer self.

2011-2012 RI President Kalyan Baner-



Reach Within to Embrace Humanity



UPPSALA UNIVERSITY NAMED ROTARY PEACE CENTER IN STIFF COMPETITION

—

“ROTARY’S DECISION IS A SOURCE OF TREMENDOUS PRIDE FOR US. THE FIELD OF PEACE, SECURITY, AND DEMOCRACY IS ONE OF OUR UNIVERSITY’S TRULY ROBUST AREAS IN RESEARCH AND EDUCATION, AND IT MEANS A GREAT DEAL TO US TO HAVE BEEN SELECTED AMONG MORE THAN 100 UNIVERSITIES IN THE WORLD”, SAYS ANDERS HALLBERG, VICE CHANCELLOR OF UPPSALA UNIVERSITY.

—

In keen international competition, Uppsala University has been named one of Rotary International’s seven international Peace Centers. This means that students from all over the world will be able to receive Rotary scholarships to pursue a master program in peace and conflict studies at Uppsala.



Rotary Peace Fellowships from the Rotary Foundation enable students to win scholarships in tough competition to study peace and conflict studies for two years at an internationally leading university.

“It is, of course, a great honor to be recognized as offering world-class education”, says Peter Wallensteen, holder of the Dag Hammarskjöld Professorship in Peace and Conflict Research at the University. “This is an effect of our long-term quality work in education and research. It has resulted in bright international students already finding their way here.”

Wallensteen continued, *“We have had strong support from Swedish Rotary in this process, and we look forward to continued collaboration both nationally and internationally.”*

Continued ...



CONTINUED

UPPSALA UNIVERSITY NAMED ROTARY PEACE CENTER

Uppsala University was founded in 1477, and it was the first university in Scandinavia. Today more than 40,000 undergraduate and graduate students enroll for classes. Postgraduate education includes 2,000 doctoral students.

Its ancient tradition of learning and its outstanding research have earned the University an excellent reputation and a self-evident place in the international research community.

CLASS 11 — ROTARY PEACE CENTERS CALLING FOR APPLICATIONS DEADLINE IS AUGUST 15, 2011

Applications for the next class of Rotary Peace Fellows are coming in, but there is still time to identify candidates and encourage them to apply.

The deadline to receive district-endorsed applications has been extended to 15 August , 2011 to accommodate applications to Uppsala University. However, we encourage all districts to submit their applications **as soon as possible**. Any incomplete applications received after 15 August will not be accepted.

For questions and more information, contact Rotary Peace Center Program Assistant Niki Fritz at

niki.fritz@rotary.org.



—
**UPPSALA
 UNIVERSITY IN
 SWEDEN IS
 RANKED AMONG
 THE TOP 100
 UNIVERSITIES IN
 THE WORLD.
 EIGHT
 SCIENTISTS AT
 THE UNIVERSITY
 HAVE BEEN
 AWARDED THE
 NOBEL PRIZE.**
 —





ROTARY CENTERS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES IN PEACE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Rotary Peace Fellows are leaders promoting national and international cooperation, peace, and the successful resolution of conflict throughout their lives, in their careers, and through service activities. Fellows can earn either a master's degree in international relations, public administration, sustainable development, peace studies, conflict resolution, or a related field, or a professional development certificate in peace and conflict resolution.

CHULALONGKORN UNIVERSITY , at Bangkok, Thailand

DUKE UNIVERSITY AND UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
at Chapel Hill , USA

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY , at Tokyo, Japan

UNIVERSIDAD DEL SALVADOR , at Buenos Aires, Argentina

UNIVERSITY OF BRADFORD , at West Yorkshire, England

UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND , at Brisbane, Australia

UPPSALA UNIVERSITY , at Uppsala, Sweden





PDG EDDIE BLENDER HONORED WITH PEACE CENTER AWARD AT NEW ORLEANS CONVENTION

Former Chair of the Rotary Peace Centers Major Gifts Initiative Committee (RPCMGI), Dr. Eddie Blender was honored with peace Centers award at the recent New Orleans convention.

The RPCMGI Chair Paul Netzel stated:

“...because we are seeking gifts for The Foundation’s Permanent Fund, we are able to accept many different types of contributions & payment schedules.

For example, while we accept outright gifts of cash or marketable securities, donors who wish to make larger gifts can do so by making a pledge with payments extending over 2 or 3 years. Such gifts qualify for Major Donor and AKS recognition. In addition the MGI has a wide variety of naming opportunities for donors of gifts ranging from US\$50,000 to \$1.5M or more.



RPCMGI Chair Paul Netzel

For some Rotarians the easiest & most painless way to make their largest *commitment* possible to the RPC program is by designating a Gift through their Will, Bequest or other estate planning methods.

Such commitments might include establishing a charitable trust, a charitable gift annuity or even signing over to TRF a fully paid-up life insurance policy. These types of gifts can qualify donors for recognition as members of TRF Bequest Society.

While planned giving vehicles & charitable deductions will vary from one country to another – gifts thru bequests are an option available in every country.

Historically, in 2005 the TRF Trustees began to look for someone to serve as the first Chairman of the RPC-MGI.

They looked for a Rotarian who was highly motivated, enthusiastic and able to never give up when someone would say "no"

Continued ...



Paul A. Netzel, 2007-09 RI director, Eddie Blender Past Chair of the Rotary Peace Centers Major Gifts Initiative and his wife Patti Blender during the Rotary Peace Centers Program at the Rotary Peace Workshop II, RI Convention, 23 May 2011, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA. . Photo by Monika Lozjnska-Lee, RI.



Continued .. PEACE CENTER AWARD

PEACE AWARD TO EDDIE BLENDER

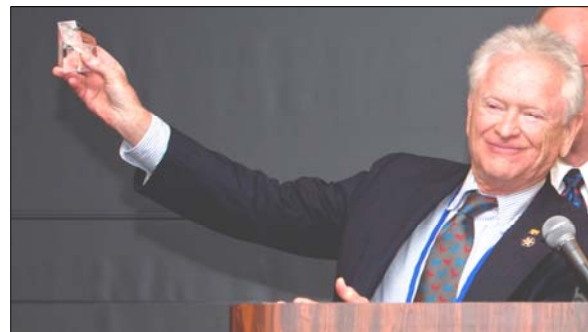
Chairman Netzel continued, “ .. most important, they wanted someone who believed the Initiative would ultimately help produce the Peace all of us dream of.

This was how PDG Eddie Blender from Colorado, USA, came to be the first chair of the MGI Committee. And by the time Eddie completed his term as Chair last June 30th, he and his dedicated Committee had reported approx 1,000 gifts totaling US\$45.7-million.

That represented 83% of the \$55M Phase-I goal and 47% of the overall \$95M goal. This was a truly remarkable accomplishment.

Eddie preceded me as chair of the MGI Committee – from the beginning he has led by example. I would like to publicly thank his wife, Patti for supporting Eddie in all that he has done.

Eddie is one of Rotary’s finest Ambassadors for Peace as he travels the world to speak in support of the Peace Centers program. His passion for the program is legendary!



Eddie Blender awarded for his work with the Rotary Peace Centers Program during the Rotary Peace Workshop. RI Convention, 23 May 2011, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA. . Photo by Monika Lozinska-Lee,RI.

—
“ROTARY AND THE WORLD OWE EDDIE A DEBT OF GRATITUDE THAT CAN NEVER BE REPAID”.

TRF Trustee

Lou Piconi



TRF Trustee Lou Piconi

As TRF Trustee Lou Piconi recently told me, “... Rotary and the world owe Eddie a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid.”

Netzel concluded, “simply said: Eddie we want to thank you for all you have done and continue to do to advance the cause of Peace in the world through Rotary – and would like to present this small token of appreciation.”

Continued ...



Continued .. **PEACE CENTERS GOAL
IS US\$ 95 MILLION
BY 30 JUNE 2015**

“This strategic initiative was launched by TRF Trustees in 2005. Its purpose is to create an endowment within TRF to permanently underwrite the annual costs of up to 110 Fellowships in peace & conflict resolution studies at seven Rotary peace center universities around the world.

The Trustees established a Phase-I goal to achieve US\$55-million with an overall 10-year goal to raise \$95-million by June 2015.

It was understood that fundraising for the MGI would differ in two key ways from our efforts for Polio & TRF’s Annual Programs Fund. Polio and the EREY appeals seek gifts payable during the *current* Rotary year; and they actively seek gifts at any level from as many donors as possible.

By contrast, the Rotary Peace Centers Major Gifts Initiative is designed to be a somewhat quiet highly targeted personal appeal to prospects who have the capacity to make gifts primarily in the range of 6 & 7 figures. Even so, the MGI Committee has and will continue to happily and gratefully accept gifts of any size, from \$10K, \$25K & \$50K.

And because the RPCMGI is seeking gifts for The Foundation’s Permanent Fund, we are able to accept many different types of contributions & payment schedules. For example, while we accept outright gifts of cash or marketable securities, donors who wish to make larger gifts can do so by making a pledge with payments extending over 2 or 3 years.

Such gifts qualify for Major Donor and Arch Klumph Society recognition. In addition the MGI has a wide variety of naming opportunities for donors of gifts ranging from US\$50,000 to \$1.5M or more.

For some Rotarians the easiest & most painless way to make their largest *commitment* possible to the RPC program is by designating a Gift through their Will, Bequest or other estate planning methods. Such commitments might include establishing a charitable trust, a charitable gift annuity or even signing over to



Zazil Romero, Rotary Peace Fellow, speaks during the Rotary Peace Centers Workshop I. RI Convention, 23 May 2011, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA. *Photo by Monika Lozinska-Lee, RI.*

Continued ...



Presenting at the workshop; Building Peace through the Rotary Peace Centers are Rotary Peace Fellows, Daniel Sturgeon, Zazil Romero and Venessa Contopoulos. They spoke to Rotarians during the Rotary Peace Centers Workshop I. RI Convention, 23 May 2011, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA. Photo by Monika Lozjnska-Lee, RI.

... TRF a fully paid-up life insurance policy. These types of gifts can qualify donors for recognition as members of TRF Bequest Society.

While planned giving vehicles and charitable deductions will vary from one country to another – gifts thru bequests are an option available in every country.

The Foundation also accepts DDF funds from Districts specifically for the RPC endowment. Some districts have also become PeaceBuilder Districts – originally called Pioneer Districts – by making DDF contributions of US\$50,000 in 1-year or US\$25,000 for 2-consecutive years.

While PeaceBuilder gifts are not counted in the MGI results, they help provide funding while we work to grow the endowment.

As you know, much of the success of projects & programs undertaken in Rotary is analogous to the efforts of a relay team. It is typical that when Rotary leaders hand off

their responsibilities to their successors, the new committees or Boards continue to build upon the good work and successes of their predecessors.

This year’s MGI Committee has been no exception. We began work last July 1st, 2011 and I’m pleased to report that – to date – the Committee’s efforts has brought the MGI total production to US\$56.8M from over 1,350 gifts.

This puts us well over our Phase-I goal of \$55M – & places us at 60% of our \$95M overall goal.

I know that our overall success could not have happened *without the outstanding support of many of you in the audience* – in addition to the generosity of others in your districts. Thank You! We still require \$38M in new commitments – and this is where we need your help.

If you were as inspired as I was by the Peace Fellows (see photo insert) we heard earlier this afternoon and if you would like to help ensure that Rotary can produce more of these types of Fellows in the future I invite you to consider making a new or an increased gift to the Peace Centers Major Gifts Initiative and/or help introduce us to others.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the crucial importance of TRF’s team of dedicated RRFCs and our hard working TRF Staff, each of whom is available to work with any Rotarian interested in learning more about how to make a gift to the Rotary Peace Centers.”

Paul Netzel, 2011 Chairman





ROTARY PEACE CENTERS • MAJOR GIFTS INITIATIVE
NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

JULY, 2011

Contribution (US\$)	Endowed or Term (fully expended)	Major Donor/ Arch C. Klumph Society (AKS) Level	Naming Opportunity	Description
\$1,500,000	Endowed	AKS Level Seven (Arch Klumph Society Foundation Circle)	Rotary Peace Fellows (every year)	Endows one Rotary Peace Fellow at a 2-year Rotary Center approximately every year
\$1,000,000	Endowed	AKS Level Seven (AKS Foundation Circle)	Rotary Peace Center Visiting Lecturer (one-year)	Endows a visiting lecturer each year who has diplomatic experience to teach courses and serve as a mentor for fellows at one Rotary Center
\$750,000	Endowed	AKS Level Six (AKS Chair's Circle)	Two-Year Peace Fellows (every other year)	Endows one 2-year Rotary Peace Fellow at a Rotary Peace Center approximately every other year
\$500,000	Endowed	AKS Level Six (AKS Chair's Circle)	Rotary Peace Fellow (every 3 yrs)	Endows one 2-year Rotary Peace Fellow at a Rotary Peace Center approximately every three years
\$250,000	Endowed	AKS Level Five (AKS Trustees)	Certificate Program Center Fellow	Endows a certificate program Fellow approximately every year
\$100,000	Endowed	MD Level Four	Rotary Peace Center Annual Seminars	Endows annual seminars at a Rotary Peace Center
\$75,000	Term	MD Level Three	Rotary Peace Fellow	Funds a named Rotary Peace Fellow at a two-year Rotary Center for one year
\$75,000	Term	MD Level Three	Applied Field Experience	Names up to 10 applied field internships or research projects for a class of fellows at a Center every year
\$60,000	Term	MD Level Three	Certificate Program Center Fellows	Provides one year of funding for approximately five certificate fellows
\$50,000 & Up	Endowed	MD Level Three	Rotary Peace Center General Support	Endows a fund bearing the donor's name and provides general support to the program

All amounts in US dollars calculated based upon 5% spendable earnings
 Support subject to financial market fluctuations





**AMBASSADORIAL SCHOLAR NAOKO KURAUCHI
WRITES ABOUT HER EXPERIENCES IN JAPAN AFTER
THE RECENT EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI.**

It's been a really tough time with a massive earthquake and tsunami happening at the same time, and to add to that, a nuclear plant going out of control. There was a dark cloud over the whole country with people fleeing and shelves going empty in stores. It was daunting to see my own country in a state of crisis and I wished everyday that one day I can wake up to know that it was one big nightmare.

However everyone's encouragement and thoughtful words have truly helped me get up to become involved. I see a sense of unity among the Japanese people, everyone willing to sacrifice something in their everyday lives. I'm trying to encourage people not to forget this feeling over the next few years, for the damage will take years to mend, both psychologically and financially.



*2008-09 Ambassadorial
Scholar, Naoko Kurauchi*

**2008-09 AMBASSADORIAL SCHOLAR *NAOKO KURAUCHI*
STUDIED FOR A MASTERS IN PUBLIC HEALTH IN DISTRICT
1020 IN SCOTLAND AND FOCUSED HER DISSERTATION ON
ROTARY'S POLIO PLUS PROGRAM. NAOKO WRITES HERE
ABOUT HER EXPERIENCES IN JAPAN AFTER THE RECENT
EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI.**

Continued ...



JAPAN'S MOST POWERFUL EARTH-QUAKE SINCE RECORDS BEGAN HAS STRUCK THE NORTH-EAST COAST, TRIGGERING A MASSIVE TSUNAMI.



CARS, SHIPS AND BUILDINGS WERE SWEEPED AWAY BY A WALL OF WATER AFTER THE 8.9-MAGNITUDE TREMOR, WHICH STRUCK ABOUT 400KM (250 MILES) NORTH-EAST OF TOKYO.



A STATE OF EMERGENCY HAS BEEN DECLARED AT A NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, WHERE PRESSURE HAS EXCEEDED NORMAL LEVELS.



MARCH 11, 2011

Almost a week has passed since that day and even now, isolated villages are finally reached where hundreds and thousands of people have huddled together without electricity and scraping together food left in the village.

I told my head nurse that I desperately wanted to go help out. Just that day, the Okinawa prefecture announced that it's going to send a relief team- she told them about me and I somehow made it into the team along with two doctors, a nurse and two in charge of logistics. We'll be the first of 11 teams from Okinawa

I admit that it's scary, with aftershocks and the nuclear plant out of control. I'll try my best to protect myself, I promised my parents. They understood and supported my decision, although I know that they prefer that I stay far away in Okinawa safe from potential harm. I am lucky to have such understanding parents.

I love my country, and I'm proud to be Japanese. The scenes on TV are just

Continued ...



unbelievable and I just sat crying and dumfounded for the first 3 days unable to accept this reality, but my mind suddenly slipped back to the Sri Lanka tsunami in 2004 which was what made me decide to apply for the Rotary scholarship and study International Health at Queen Margaret University in Scotland. The Rotarians from Livingston RC have taught me what it means to help out- to lend a hand to someone who needs it, which is exactly what you have done to me during my year as an Ambassadorial Scholar. I believe we all have something to offer.

BEING IN THE DISASTER HIT AREA (MARCH 22-26, DISASTER DAY 12-16)



Our mission was to go to Iwate, one of the hardest hit areas by the tsunami. We sent two ambulances full of medical supplies and food from Okinawa to Tokyo by ferry. On the 22nd, we flew into Tokyo, picked up our ambulances and drove up north 500km to Iwate. The highway was for relief/emergency vehicles only, with minimal repairs to the bumps and cracks

in the road caused by the earthquake.

It was 1km before Miyako city that we finally started seeing traces of the tsunami. Everything was scattered by the waves and not knowing what belonged to whom, the whole town was filled with mud and garbage. There were boats in the middle of the road, cars on top of houses, houses on top of roofs, simply unbelievable sights here and there.

REFLECTING ON MY EXPERIENCE



I've just come back home to warm Okinawa from snowy Iwate yesterday.

It was a short 5 days that I spent with my team but there was a lot I learned from it, especially about the concept of 'aid'. I tried to go through many of the manuals and handbooks on disaster relief before I left, but my conclusion was that we

Continued ...



shouldn't assume what is needed to be done, nor should be assume how these victims feel. The priority is to remember that even disaster hit areas have their own ways of running things and that it may still have potential to recover on its own to some extent.

Miyako city was lucky in many ways and although houses were washed away, the municipality was able to keep functioning to build the basic structure for recovery. For example, there were many things the Okinawa team could have done (such as pick up everyone's prescriptions at the pharmacy, since there was a few kilometer wait for petrol, therefore no means of transportation) but the municipality was trying to set up their own system for mobile pharmacies, and so we decided to step back and encourage their will to recover using the local networks. Miyako had been well prepared for natural disasters and although this time the scale was well over their expectation, they were trying their best to get back on its feet.



THEY COULD NOT POSSIBLY LEAVE BEFORE LOCATING FAMILY MEMBERS' BODIES.

Areas where the whole administrative body had been washed away, the situation was much worse and Japan's self defense squad (equivalent to the army), MSF (Doctors without Borders), and the Red Cross were left in charge. This disaster may be distinct in that local governments and municipalities were able to take charge from an early stage, therefore aid being impressively coordinated and organized. On the other hand there wasn't much flexibility for us medical teams to go out into the



The process was carried out very carefully, for there were still family members missing under the rubble

Continued ...



unstable areas, but it was understandable in terms of avoiding chaos and with the severe lack of petrol. Also a major problem was that help was not reaching the people in Fukushima around the nuclear plant. The whole town and population had been moved out, but people remained ignoring the country's warning to evacuate. They could not possibly leave before locating family members' bodies.

It's been a really tough time with a massive earthquake and tsunami happening at the same time, and to add to that, a nuclear plant going out of control. There was a dark cloud over the whole country with people fleeing and shelves going empty in stores. It was daunting to see my own country in a state of crisis and I wished everyday that one day I can wake up to know that it was one big nightmare.



However everyone's encouragement and thoughtful words have truly helped me get up to become involved. I see a sense of unity among the Japanese people, everyone willing to sacrifice something in their everyday lives. I'm trying to encourage people not to forget this feeling over the next few years, for the damage will take years to mend, psychologically and financially. I really thank everyone around the world for their support for my country, Japan is such a beautiful place and I wish that things would settle down as soon as possible so that I can show you how beautiful the cherry blossoms are, when the wind is full of their pink petals.

*Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar,
Naoko Kurauchi*



LONG TERM DISASTER SUPPORT

Everyone who lived through Hurricane Katrina has a story of loss, including members of the Rotary Club of New Orleans. But those Rotarians also have a story of renewal. When the 2005 storm and its floodwaters receded, club members banded together to help reopen Louisiana's oldest public high school.

Rotarians have a long relationship with Warren Easton Charter High School, a respected institution in the Mid-City neighborhood. The New Orleans club has provided scholarships and financial support for nearly three decades. It has sponsored the school's Interact club for more than 20 years.

When Warren Easton needed help, Rotarians were a logical lifeline. But after Katrina, meetings of the New Orleans club had been suspended, and many members had been out of contact with each other for weeks.

"After the storm, we didn't know who was alive, who was dead. We didn't know where they were living or the status of their homes," says **Dick McCarthy**, a past club president who had decamped to Houston during Katrina. When he returned seven weeks later, McCarthy sent out an e-mail proposing an impromptu gathering at a local hotel. To his surprise, about 40 Rotarians showed up.

PLEA FOR HELP

During the meeting, Warren Easton's Interact club adviser issued a plea for help. Floodwaters had reached 8 feet in the nearly century-old building, and the school was in danger of not reopening. Despite its rich traditions and strong academic record – about 90 percent of Warren Easton graduates go on to college – the inner-city school wasn't a top priority for a school board facing widespread rebuilding. The working-class families of Mid-City had scattered across the country, and officials figured that many would not return.

When McCarthy toured the sodden building alongside engineers to assess the damage, he saw that, like much of the city, it was "covered in a sheen of grunge."

"Touring the school was the most depressing thing I've ever done," says McCarthy. "It was just god-awful."

Seeing the destruction cemented the club's resolve. Rotarians lobbied the school district to reopen Warren Easton in 2006, sweetening the deal with a commitment to personally rehab all areas that didn't require professional expertise. With **Rotarian Henry Lowentritt** leading the project, the club began fielding offers of help from around the world. Dozens of clubs and districts made cash and in-kind contributions, and some even offered to come help scrape and paint the moldy classroom walls. Members of the Rotary Club of Berkeley, Calif., were among the most hands-on, replacing their annual international service trip with a domestic mission to New Orleans.

"Everyone hugged and kissed. We all had war stories to tell," recalls

Continued ...





McCarthy, now governor of District 6840 (parts of Louisiana and Mississippi). *“There was a lot of crying.”*

BERKELEY ROTARY PITCHES IN

In June 2006, about 30 Berkeley Rotarians toiled alongside locals in the Louisiana heat, restoring classrooms and offices on the school’s upper levels. The school board hired contractors to renovate the first floor, given its ruined electrical, HVAC, and other systems.

The Berkeley club selects projects based on a long list of criteria, including community support, strength of local partnerships, and sustainability. Grier Graff, a Berkeley club member who served as site manager, says the school’s importance to the community was evident when parents and students living as far away as Houston began arriving at the project site to apply for spots for the upcoming school year.

“To see that kind of enthusiasm is a tremendous statement of what the school is about,” Graff says. “It’s not about the building. It’s what ends up in it that makes it sustainable.”

On the first day of school in 2006, 800 students filed into refurbished classrooms. The Rotarians continued their work. By spring, the New Orleans club had collected more than \$350,000 in donations, including funds from The Rotary Foundation.



UPGRADES

In the summer of 2007, Rotarians from seven U.S. states and Canada returned to Warren Easton to build and upgrade science labs, renovate the library, and complete work on classrooms and common areas. The Warren Easton Eagles football team took the field that fall, and the marching band stepped out in new uniforms. Less than two years after Rotarians took up the cause, the beleaguered school that almost didn’t reopen was back – and in better condition than before the hurricane.



New Orleans Rotarians have received accolades for their work, including a Louisiana Distinguished Partners in Education Award from the state’s department of education. But for those who guided the project, the rewards are personal.

“It’s the most important thing I’ve ever done in my life,” Lowentritt says. *“I’m 67 years old, and I’ve learned in those 67 years that everything you do causes ripples that go out into the world, and you never know where it stops.”*

“We brought education to kids. We brought their families back to New Orleans. We brought hope and comfort to people who desperately needed it. What we did probably will affect more people than we will ever know.”



ROTARY FOUNDATION PACKAGED GLOBAL GRANT APPLICATION

TRF's Future Vision Pilot Operations Division is pleased to announce that applications for the first packaged global grants offered with our strategic partner Aga Khan University are now available online.

Packaged global grants provide opportunities for Rotary clubs in pilot districts to work with The Rotary Foundation's strategic partners on pre-designed activities funded entirely with World Fund. Three grants for vocational training teams traveling to Aga Khan University will be awarded to the first three complete applications received.

As this is a new funding model for the Foundation, the initial packaged global grant offerings with each strategic partner will be limited in number. Over the course of the pilot the number of grants will increase in order to establish a well-rounded menu of opportunities. These projects and activities will support the areas of focus and can include scholarships, humanitarian projects, and vocational training teams.

Candace Embling will be serving as the Project Manager of Packaged Grants and Jennifer Berg will be the Senior Packaged Grant Coordinator. Please feel free to contact Jennifer directly with any questions at jennifer.berg@rotary.org. Our team is looking forward to working with you!

James Robinson
Division Manager,
Future Vision Pilot Operations
The Rotary Foundation
Phone 847 866 3346
Fax 847 556 2177
E-mail: james.robinson@rotary.org



**FOR MORE
INFORMATION
ON HOW THESE
PACKAGED
GLOBAL GRANTS
WILL FUNCTION
AND HOW TO APPLY,
PLEASE GO TO
THE PACKAGED
GLOBAL GRANT
PAGE ON THE
ROTARY WEBSITE
AND CLICK ON THE
LINK FOR AGA KHAN
UNIVERSITY.**



VOCATIONAL TRAINING TEAMS (VTT) GIVE KIDS AN EDGE

*By Dan Nixon
Rotary International News*

Vocational training teams from Rustenburg, South Africa (District 9400), and Bridgeport, Connecticut, USA (District 7980), have discovered that their communities share surprisingly similar challenges when it comes to early childhood education.



Vocational training teams from districts 7980 and 9400 meet in Rustenburg, South Africa.

“Both areas face similar hardships of poverty, disintegrating families, poor health, and low parental and childhood literacy,” says Barbara Welles-Nystrom, associate professor of early childhood education at Fairfield University in Connecticut, who led the U.S. team’s visit to South Africa in January. The South African team traveled to the United States in March.

The teams of early childhood educators, both sponsored by Future Vision pilot districts, learned firsthand about the challenges of teaching young children in rural villages near Rustenburg and in urban Bridgeport, and shared best practices in areas including preschool curriculum, facilities, and community support. Funded by a US\$35,625 Rotary Foundation Global Grant, the project will also include online teacher training. It supports the basic education and literacy area of focus.

The U.S. team visited seven preschools run by the Royal Bafokeng Institute, which was established by the Royal Bafokeng Nation to support early childhood education in its ethnic homeland.

“With our South African colleagues, we had many exchanges of ideas [on] how to develop better leadership and management of early childhood education programs that will benefit children and their families, including children at risk, so that all children will be better prepared for formal education,” says Welles-Nystrom, a member of the Rotary Club of Fairfield, outside Bridgeport.

Continued ...



“We have learned about the challenges facing our colleagues in respect to HIV/AIDS and the difficult situations regarding substandard housing and hygiene, as well as the general poverty of families in the area.”

ENLISTING THE HELP OF GRANDPARENTS

During its trip to Connecticut, the South African team visited preschools, child care centers, workshops, and parent programs. Team member Bertha Mohube, a Bafokeng preschool supervisor, is accustomed to teaching classes, helping to prepare meals for students, and overseeing the maintenance of her school building — broader responsibilities than those of her U.S. counterparts. She says the 40 children in her care would benefit from more adult help at school, but most of their parents are in their teens.



Bertha Mohube and Elaine Serekwane of the South African vocational training team speak with children at the Housatonic Community College Laboratory School about a book they presented, written in their heart language of Setswana. Photos courtesy of Laurie Noe

Fellow team member Sean Tunmer, program manager for the Royal Bafokeng Institute, agrees with the need, adding, ***“We have a very strong community of grandparents who are willing to help out in the schools.”*** He calls that generation an “untapped source.”

Tunmer says quality teacher training is also essential, which is why Bafokeng teachers attend weekly professional development workshops. During their visit to Bridgeport, the South Africans tried out teacher training modules at Housatonic Community College. Educators in both countries will use the online courses to become certified in early childhood education.

Reflecting on the exchange, Welles-Nystrom says, ***“We are committed to continuing this important collaboration and have begun to plan for future training and research projects.”***

Adds fellow U.S. team member Laurie Noe, associate professor of early childhood education at Housatonic, ***“We are all looking forward to a long relationship that will benefit the children in both communities.”***

Interested in reading more about the Future Vision pilot? Sign up to receive Future Vision Pilot News.

—
**A VERY STRONG
 COMMUNITY
 OF
 GRANDPARENTS
 WHO ARE AN
 UNTAPPED
 RESOURCE**
 —



BILL GATES IS KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT THE 2011 RI CONVENTION IN NEW ORLEANS



Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, praised Rotary for its continued success in the effort to eradicate polio, but cautioned that Rotarians will need to redouble their efforts to keep the disease from spreading -- and threatening hundreds of thousands of children.

Gates, the keynote speaker at the third plenary session of the 2011 RI Convention, 24 May in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA, said that because of Rotary, there are many places in the world where polio is no longer considered a threat.

“That’s a blessing and a curse,” said Gates. “The blessing is that in many places, polio is a disease of the past. The curse is that it is now harder for us to raise awareness that, in some places, polio is also a disease of the present. If we fail to help leaders around the world understand this, polio is certain to be a disease of the future.”

Gates praised Rotary for reducing the incidence of polio by more than 99 percent worldwide since 1988.

“Your work has brought us so far,” he said. “I’m so proud to be a partner in the work that Rotary has been doing to eradicate polio.”

Gates noted that only one case of polio had been reported in India this year, as of March. *“India is approaching zero cases,” said Gates. “None of this would have been remotely achievable had it not been for Rotary. We would not be where we are without you. Nor can we get to where we’re going without you.”*

Gates said that he and his wife, Melinda, have made eradicating polio their foundation's top priority. With the world on the threshold of eradication, the hard work really begins, he said.

Continued ...



“Polio eradication has been our single biggest investment in recent years, as far as innovation and creativity. The last 1 percent will be the longest and hardest 1 percent,” he said. “It will require more work and more commitment than ever before. Without the redoubled effort of everyone in this room, and your fellow Rotarians around the world, we will not succeed. Redoubling is crucial to ending polio.”

The Gates Foundation has awarded two grants totaling US\$355 million to Rotary in support of its work in eradicating the disease. Rotary has responded with Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge. To date, Rotarians have raised \$173.2 million for the challenge.

Gates said he plans to work with Rotary leadership to keep polio front and center in the public eye. *“You have helped so many people understand that we are ‘this close.’ I challenge you to make your voices louder.”*

Countries including Canada, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States have all increased their investment in the eradication effort. Gates attributed that success to the pressure Rotarians have put on the leaders of those countries. But he noted that with a funding gap of \$400 million next year for the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, it is no time to let up.

“If we fail, the disease will not stay at its current low level,” he said. “It will spread back into countries where it’s been eliminated, and will kill and paralyze hundreds of thousands of children who used to be safe.”

Gates said that the monuments Rotarians have illuminated with the End Polio Now message are powerful images.

“But ultimately, the most important monument won’t be the one we illuminate,” said Gates. “It will be the one we create.”



WE MUST FIGHT TO THE FINISH TO THE ERADICATION OF POLIO

—
**CONTROLLING
POLIO IN INDIA
IS A MILESTONE
BUT
ERADICATING
IT COMPLETELY
IS THE
ULTIMATE GOAL**
—

Just one case of polio this year (2011) has occurred in polio endemic India . This is a monumental achievement.

This has been possible because each one of you had faith in India's triumph and relentlessly pursued towards achieving the goal of eradication.

This achievement is truly a landmark and I can't thank you all enough. We deserve this glory and accolades, after all we fought for it! But, while we revel in this triumph it must be known that controlling polio in India is a milestone but eradicating it completely is the ultimate goal. And now that we have controlled it (there has not been a single incidence of polio since January 2011), the challenge is to maintain this for as long as polio is eradicated.

As is known, polio virus is a very tenacious and a virulent disease that targets children. The only way to ensure its end is by continuing with the current momentum without complacency. One lapse, one loophole and the virus can cause an outbreak anywhere in the country. Despite the current gain, there still exists a challenge.

We must continue with our diligent efforts at the Club, District, State and Central level towards eradicating polio.

We have to support routine immunisations, surveillance, increasing community participation, coordination with partners and fight complacency and fatigue wherever visible.

Rotarians can strengthen social mobilisation, advocacy and fundraising

Continued ...





efforts. The funding gap that exists needs to be bridged for endemic countries like India, Nigeria, Pakistan and Afghanistan to continue the battle against polio.

We have come this far not to fall back again ... the fight must continue till the end. And each of you will have to take the lead if India is to build on today's milestone.

We may not get this chance again, this opportune moment to make history. We must and we will seize the goal this time!

On behalf of Rotary India, I assured the International members of our commitment to fight till the end. I am sanguine each one of you will live up to this commitment and help India make history.



*Rotarian Ashok Mahajan
Trustee, The Rotary Foundation,
Director, Rotary International 2007–2009
Member, International PolioPlus Committee*





A SHOCKING STATISTIC



I was shocked to learn of the number of clubs who have given nothing (so far) in Rotary year 2010/11. You too may find this statistic surprising; but it is worth remembering. It shows we all have a job to do in encouraging fellow members of the world's premier service organization to get involved in our Foundation's work.

As of 18 May, 11,289 clubs worldwide have yet to contribute to the Annual Programs Fund. If each of those clubs give US\$1,000, over \$11 million more would be available to help prevent disease, increase access to clean water, reduce child mortality, ensure education, and develop vocational opportunities.

Between 1 July 2010 and 1 May 2011, the Foundation received 1,912 Matching Grant and District Simplified Grant applications for humanitarian projects on five continents. The grants, which totalled \$51,385,906, would not have been possible without your contributions to the Annual Programs Fund.

Just think of the possibilities if everyone was contributing to The Foundation— another 10 or 100 or however many service projects improving health, supporting education and alleviating poverty.

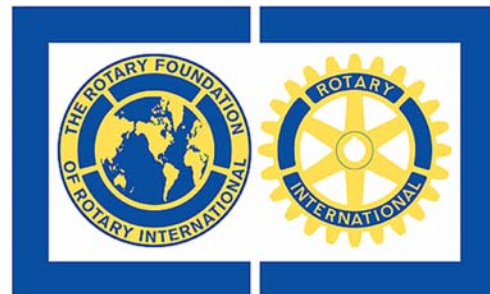
It's all up to you.

Calum Thomson

EVERY
ROTARIAN
EVERY
YEAR



BECAUSE OF YOUR SUPPORT, ROTARIANS AT HOME AND AROUND THE WORLD ARE ERADICATING POLIO, WORKING FOR PEACE, PROVIDING ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER, ASSISTING WITH BASIC EDUCATION AND LITERACY NEEDS, IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF MOTHERS AND CHILDREN, AND BUILDING NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.





HOW DO WE DEFINE SUSTAINABILITY?

I posed this question recently in order to further understand in my mind exactly what a ‘sustainable’ project was. I, like other Rotarians, have our own personal ideas of what the concept means but in fact there is one obvious answer that we sometimes forget.



The only way to implement a successful project or, indeed, programme is through PEACE.

Yes, it is that simple.

In fact, everything we do through Rotary, everything we do through our clubs — whether it’s alleviating poverty or eradicating Polio, ultimately leads to Peace.

Peace is the fabric that we can use to create a bright, beautiful and sustainable future for those in need.

Without a world of peace all of our humanitarian projects will be short term based. Without peace in the community the water well cannot be maintained, the literacy program is doomed to failure. And the vaccination program stalls and falters. Is it surprising that the last polio endemic areas of the world have seen conflict and tension in recent years?

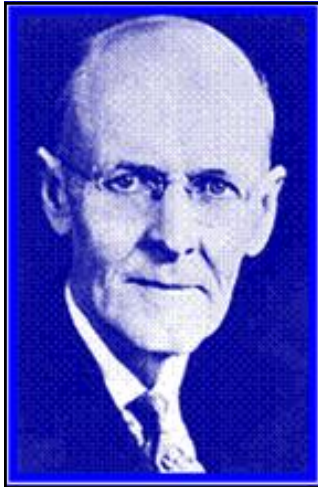
Peace is the long term solution to project success and that is why it is the most precious goal of our Foundation. No wonder our Rotary Peace Fellowship Programme is our number one educational priority. It is no surprise that the first area of focus is ‘Peace and Conflict Resolution’.

Peace leads to Sustainability. Sustainability leads to Success.

Calum Thomson



WHAT PAUL HARRIS SAID...



Paul P. Harris

Charles Lamb, pointing to a man across the street, and said to a friend: "I don't like that man." To which his friend answered: "Why, I didn't know that you were acquainted with him." Lamb whimsically rejoined: "I am not acquainted with him; that's why I don't like him." How true it is that dislike vanishes in the light of acquaintance. The best guaranty of world peace is world understanding.

Paul Harris, *This Rotarian Age*, page 64



Paul Harris simple observation is as true today as it was back in early 20th century Chicago.

Thankfully, The Rotary Foundation works every minute of every day to fulfil this truth.

And of course, The Foundation is actually better known as Our Foundation and in reality — yours.

To subscribe to Rotary Global History Fellowship features... Please register (at no-cost) at:
www.historycomment.org

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

OUR FOUNDATION

July 2011 #109

Calum Thomson, Editor
CalThomson@aol.com

Edward "Eddie" Blender, Publisher
EBlender@aol.com



OUR FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER IS
A MONTHLY FEATURE OF THE ROTARY
GLOBAL HISTORY FELLOWSHIP (RGHF).

