

Weekly Rotary Foundation Thoughts



Educating Rotarians about the work of The Rotary Foundation is one of the most effective tools in gaining and broadening support of our Annual Programs Fund and the Every Rotarian, Every Year effort. The **Weekly Rotary Foundation Thought** is designed to inform our members of the many ways in which we impact the world. This kit insert will get you started on your quest to rediscover Rotary, but feel free to write and share your own thoughts — there's always something new and exciting going on in Rotary.

The club president can begin the tradition by opening each meeting with a brief moment on The Rotary Foundation, but consider rotating ownership of the weekly reading among club members. In fact, didn't Paul Harris have a similar idea about rotating?

Week 1:

This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is provided as a reminder to all of us that the Foundation is the primary way in which we are involved in the fourth Avenue of Service: International Service.

The Rotary Foundation was started with a gift of \$26.50 from the Rotary Club of Kansas City in 1917 — the leftover profit from the international convention that year. Earlier that same year, Rotary's sixth president, Arch C. Klumph, suggested the creation of just such a fund. The very first grant made by The Rotary Foundation was to the International Society for Crippled Children. The idea of international service has grown. Just in the last 20 years, Rotary has contributed over US\$600 million to the polio eradication effort. Thanks to everyone in the club who has supported this program.

In the words of professional volunteer, Charlotte Lunsford: *"We won't always know whose lives we touched and made better for our having cared, because actions can sometimes have unforeseen ramifications. What's important is that you do care and act."*

Create Awareness. Take Action. Make your annual gift today!

EVERY
ROTARIAN
EVERY
YEAR

The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International
everyrotarianeveryyear@rotaryintl.org

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Week 2:

This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about Group Study Exchange.

Group Study Exchange (GSE) was founded as an educational program of the Foundation in 1965. In fact, 2005-06 will mark the 40th Anniversary of GSE! As a result of this popular program, thousands of young professionals from more than 100 countries around the world have received vocational training, experienced another culture, and benefited from Rotarian hospitality around the world.

This is the Rotary approach to creating an internationally minded workforce and building cross-cultural friendships. Our district recently hosted a GSE team from _____ and/or sent a team to _____.

For so many, life would be different if it weren't for Rotary. Create world understanding and peace with your contribution to The Rotary Foundation.

Week 3:

This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about participating in Foundation programs in our community and across the globe.

We make our annual contributions to The Rotary Foundation knowing that 50 percent of that gift will come right back to our district in three years to be used for humanitarian and educational programs chosen by us. This includes Ambassadorial Scholars, Matching Grants, and District Simplified Grants that may be used for projects in our local community.

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The other 50 percent also benefits our district indirectly, because it is used to fund a variety of programs in which we can participate. The Rotary Foundation is *our* Foundation. It is critical that we take ownership of it and do what we can to change and save lives, in our community and across the globe.

Week 4:

This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about Rotary World Peace Fellowships.

Rotarians have always wanted to do more than just talk about world peace. In 2002, The Rotary Foundation established seven Rotary Centers for International Studies in peace and conflict resolution around the globe. Our Foundation contributions support the best and brightest scholars from a variety of nations as they develop skills and attitudes to prepare them for leadership positions in our increasingly complex world. A recent Rotary World Peace Fellow graduate from Duke University, Bautista Logioco, sponsored by the Rotary Club of La Plata Tribunales, Buenos Aires, Argentina (District 4910), has begun full-time work at the Organization of American States (OAS) in Washington, D.C., as a program officer in the Special Area for the Promotion of Dialogue and Conflict Resolution.

We should remember International Service is an important part of what makes us proud to be Rotarians. The Every Rotarian Every Year effort is an ongoing reminder for all of us to give generously to the Foundation.

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Week 5:

This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about the Permanent Fund. One of the many ways to support The Rotary Foundation is by including it in your estate plans. Many other Rotarians have, enabling our Permanent Fund to grow and providing long-term stability for Foundation programs. Arch C. Klumph, who conceived the idea of our Foundation in 1917, said it best: *"We should look at the Foundation as being not something of today or tomorrow, but think of it in terms of the years and generations to come. Rotary is a movement for the centuries."*

Our investment in time, talent, and financial resources is an investment in making the world a safer and healthier place for our children and our grandchildren.

Weeks 6-52:

Please visit <http://erey.rotary.org> to access more **Weekly Rotary Foundation Thoughts** and other Every Rotarian, Every Year resources. If you have a Rotary Foundation Thought you would like to share, please e-mail everyrotarianeveryyear@rotaryintl.org.

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