

Weekly Rotary Foundation Thoughts

Weeks 16-20



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 — 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 16:

This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about the **SHARE** system.

Through **SHARE**, Rotary districts **share** in the decision making process by choosing which Rotary Foundation programs they wish to support and participate in. Fifty cents of every dollar contributed to the Annual Programs Fund is returned to the district in the form of District Designated Funds (DDF). DDF can be used by the district and clubs to fund Ambassadorial Scholars, Group Study Exchanges, Matching Grants, and District Simplified Grants. The other half of the funds raised through **APF-SHARE**, remain in the World Fund for matches to Matching Grants, funding for 3-H Grants and the yearly Group Study Exchange award. When you make a contribution the Annual Programs Fund you are helping support worthy Foundation projects all over the world and also in your own community.

Week 17:

This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about Polio Plus Partners.

PolioPlus Partners was created in 1995 to allow Rotarians in polio-free countries to partner with Rotarians in polio-endemic countries by providing support for National Immunization Days and other critical activities. Over US\$33 million has been contributed to more than 400 projects since then, yet there is still a need today. The Partners program allows Rotarians to choose a project of interest by reviewing and selecting from the Open Projects list available on the Rotary website. These projects support our fellow Rotarians in the final battles against polio. Let's consider giving them our support.



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The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International
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continued

Week 18:

This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about becoming a Paul Harris Fellow.

When you complete your first US\$1,000 gift to The Rotary Foundation you can be named a Paul Harris Fellow -- or choose to name someone else. Your first US\$1,000 is a very important benchmark because it gets you started on the lifelong journey of supporting our Rotary Foundation. Each time you reach another US\$1,000 level, a new recognition pin is awarded. While some donors are capable of giving US\$1,000 at once, many Rotarians make smaller gifts regularly to reach higher PHF levels. **Every Rotarian, Every Year** is a reminder to all of us to donate generously to the Foundation and to do so annually.

Week 19:

This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about how Group Study Exchange can make a difference.

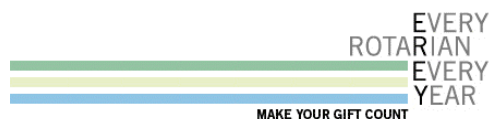
A Rotary district in western Australia and a district in Arizona planned a unique cultural exchange with indigenous peoples from their countries. The Australian district recruited a team of all aboriginal Australians and the U.S. district recruited a team of Native American members. Through Group Study Exchange, these young professionals were able to share their own experiences and learn about the cultures of the indigenous peoples. The Group Study Exchange program is a one of a kind experience for the team members and the Rotarians who participate in sending and hosting these groups of young men and women. Now more than ever we need to increase our knowledge and understanding of different countries and cultures. We are fortunate to have that opportunity by participating in the programs of our Foundation.

Week 20:

This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about about HIV/AIDS projects.

Through a variety of humanitarian grants awarded by The Rotary Foundation, Rotarians around the world have found creative and effective ways to fight the spread of HIV/AIDS and care for its victims. Rotary districts in Colombia and the U.S. have partnered to receive a Health, Hunger and Humanity (3-H) Grant aimed at implementing an HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention campaign in Colombian high schools around Bogotá. Through the use of guided mural exhibitions, over 200,000 students were reached with life-saving messages about HIV/AIDS. Separately, in an effort to meet the needs of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS, Rotary clubs in Ethiopia and Spokane Valley-Sunrise, USA obtained a Matching Grant to help provide a used van, clothing, food, furniture, a computer and office supplies to an orphanage serving AIDS orphans in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The opportunities to make a difference are limitless. Let's continue to get involved in international projects of merit.



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