

Weekly Rotary Foundation Thoughts

Weeks 21-24



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 21:

This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about putting the 'fun' in fundraising.

RI President Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar is now auctioning off a unique piece of clothing that is truly a collector's item: a reversible blue-and-gold jacket in Rotary's and Sweden's colors of blue and gold. Proceeds of the online auction (ending 30 November 2005) will benefit The Rotary Foundation.

This is not the first time Stenhammar sold his clothes for charity. At a District 5010 conference in Alaska, USA, when Stenhammar learned that the district was just short of its Rotary Foundation donation goal, Stenhammar promptly offered the shirt off his back, literally. His Italian dress shirt raised US\$1,500 for the event.

This is a good reminder to us all that raising money can also be fun and creative. And, if anyone is interested in placing a bid for RI President Stenhammar's jacket, please check out the Rotary website for more information.

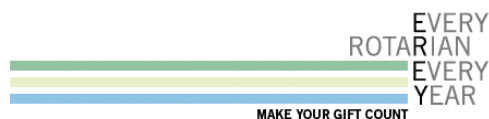
Week 22:

This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about what OUR Rotary Foundation does with the money we contribute.

Last Rotary year, The Rotary Foundation spent over US\$110 million on program awards and expenses. \$27.8 million was spent on educational programs, including Ambassadorial Scholarships and Group Study Exchange; \$46.1 million was spent on humanitarian projects, such as Matching Grants and District Simplified Grants; and \$36.1 million was spent on polio eradication efforts.

Our annual contributions are what make these programs possible. TRF carefully invests our gifts for three years, with the investment earnings going to pay administrative expenses, and the full amount of our contributions going to fund the projects.

This is OUR Rotary Foundation; Let's be a part of it!



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continued

Week 23:

This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about how Rotary helps communities impacted by disasters long after many relief agencies have moved on.

Shortly after the deadly tsunami struck south Asia on 26 December 2004, The Rotary Foundation established the Solidarity in South Asia fund to assist Rotarians in supporting long-term recovery efforts in affected communities. In addition to \$4.8 million in contributions from Rotarians around the world, more than 75 Rotary districts allocated over US\$700,000 in District Designated Funds (DDF) for rebuilding efforts. This DDF was a result of Annual Programs Fund contributions made three years ago, in which the districts had not yet allocated to a specific TRF program.

As a result, Rotarians were able to respond quickly to the disaster, and provide much needed financial support, through The Rotary Foundation. Rotary Sri Lanka set the pace for the massive rebuilding effort of schools destroyed by the tsunami; with 25 schools spread across the country allocated to Rotary for rebuilding. The first batch of schools is scheduled to be completed by the end of November 2005.

Rotarians can expect equally worthy projects in Indonesia, India and Thailand and in areas impacted by Hurricane Katrina. We can all be proud to be a part of an organization that is so responsive to needs in our own country and those around the world.

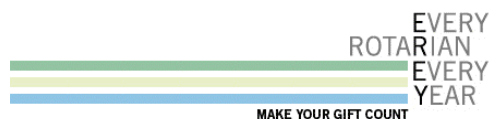
Week 24:

This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about using District Simplified Grants to help communities in need.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, many Rotarians are interested in developing projects to alleviate the suffering and hardship of individuals in the affected communities. Many of the needed items, such as basic necessities and medical care, can be provided through a District Simplified Grant (DSG).

District Simplified Grants (DSG) are one means by which Rotary districts can support short-term, humanitarian projects that benefit local or international communities. DSG funds can be used for disaster relief efforts as long as Rotarians clearly identify the proposed grant-funded expenditures and there is active Rotarian participation in the project. Clubs interested in receiving DSG funds must contact their district leadership.

Let's learn more about our own district's projects and how to get involved.



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