

Weekly Rotary Foundation Thoughts

Weeks 38-42



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 38:

This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about club goal setting.

Clubs are asked to set annual giving goals for the Every Rotarian, Every Year effort. Since clubs began establishing their own goals two years ago, annual giving to The Rotary Foundation has surged from \$55 million in 2002-03 to nearly \$85 million in 2004-05. We're asking every Rotarian to support our Foundation with a financial contribution, every year. At the President-elect Training Seminar this spring, our club president-elect will be asked to submit an annual giving goal for the upcoming year.

History has proven that clubs that set goals follow through with them. As our club sets its goal for the coming year, we should also remember to measure our success by the number of lives we changed and saved.

Week 39:

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

A GSE team from the Netherlands was scheduled to visit a district in Indonesia shortly after the tsunami disaster of December 2004. The GSE team members were aware of the damage that had occurred in their host district and embarked on a mission: to return home with a project that would benefit tsunami victims. During their visit, they discovered that many Acehese students were no longer able to support their studies because they had lost homes and families in the tsunami. The GSE team leader launched the appeal to Dutch Rotary Clubs who, through the coordination of the Rotary Club of Bandung in Indonesia, were able to identify deserving Acehese students that needed support to complete their study programs.

The project, which was created through a GSE relationship, will ensure that many students from tsunami-stricken West Java have the resources necessary to realize their dream of obtaining a university degree.



continued on back page

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continued

Week 40:

This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about the upcoming International Convention.

Just as Rotary's mission of peace and understanding unites us, a spirit of cooperation and togetherness links the cities of Malmö and Copenhagen. The 2006 RI Convention is not only the first Rotary celebration in the Nordic region - it's also the first to embrace the hospitality of two host countries. The 97th annual RI Convention kicks off our second century of service and presents a remarkable opportunity to build bridges of friendship and service with fellow Rotarians and come away with new ideas and inspiration that will resonate into the future. Each year thousands of Rotarians attend these conventions and have the chance to visit some of the most beautiful cities around the world.

Have you ever considered attending one as part of your vacation?

Week 41:

This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about the new Rotary Center for Peace and Conflict Studies in Bangkok, Thailand.

This Center at Chulalongkorn University is hosting a new three-month certificate program. The program is focused on providing working professionals from various industries with the conflict resolution tools they need to foster peace and peaceful conflict resolution in their fields. The requirements for this program are centered on appropriate professional experience and proven commitment to the field. The skills and theories learned, can then be used by the participants in real life situations.

All Rotary clubs are invited to submit applicants. Rotary clubs and districts are not required to financially support their applicants. Contact your district Rotary Foundation chair if you have a suitable candidate in mind.

Week 42:

This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about a new volunteer position within Rotary called the Rotary Foundation Alumni Coordinators (RFACs).

These new volunteer coordinators have been asked to encourage Rotary clubs and districts to involve Foundation program alumni in Rotary activities; to urge clubs to consider alumni as potential members of Rotary and as potential contributors to The Rotary Foundation; and to use alumni as effective advocates for the programs of The Rotary Foundation.

Alumni include individuals who have been part of a Group Study Exchange team or have been Ambassadorial Scholars or Rotary Peace Fellows. Do any of you know a Foundation alumnus that might be interested in joining Rotary? If so, contact your area Rotary Foundation Alumni Coordinator through your district Rotary Foundation Chair.



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