

July

This week's Foundation Thought is about ...

Our mission. “Doing Good in the World is more than a motto. It is our goal, our mission, and our reminder. It expresses in the clearest terms why we have a Foundation, and it challenges us to reach as far as we can to do the most good possible with everything we have. Our Foundation exists to support the good that we can do through Rotary. It expands our reach, increases our strength, and makes our service more powerful and more effective. Because of our Foundation we can, very simply, do more of our Rotary work.”

— 2004-05 RI President Glenn E. Estess Sr.

Polio. Past District Governor John Jacob Zucker Gardiner says that “the experience of giving polio vaccine to little children in Ethiopia was transformational. The children’s faces were open and joyful (mostly), and I realized that while their futures were not as bright as their faces, at least polio would not be part of their days to come. Rotary brings hope. Rotary’s work is never done.”

Peace. Through the Rotary Peace Centers program, The Rotary Foundation and Rotarians can increase their effectiveness in promoting greater tolerance and cooperation among peoples, leading to world understanding and peace. Archbishop Emeritus and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Desmond Tutu has said: “Rotary Peace Fellows believe, and I believe, it is possible to have a world without war. It is possible to have a world without hunger.”

Giving to the Foundation. “Some think that there is competition in Rotary between supporting local projects and giving to The Rotary Foundation. In fact, the more we emphasize what Rotary does for people through The Rotary Foundation, the more it increases our overall spirit of giving. When a club emphasizes giving to The Rotary Foundation, most often the club will discover increases in giving to local scholarship foundations, contributions to local community service, and greater participation in local hands-on projects because a club that gets into the habit of giving will give more to all causes.” — *Rotarian Ronn Kerr*

August: Membership and Extension Month

This week's Foundation Thought is about ...

Matching Grants. Henning Sorknaes has no trouble remembering his proudest Rotary moment. It was taking part in a community service project supported by several Rotary clubs to help restore a hospital in Senta, Serbia. The hospital, which serves a population of about 150,000, mostly ethnic Hungarian Serbians, lacked modern technical equipment and was barely surviving on a mixture of public and private funds. The grant helped fund a US\$1.2 million project to equip and train staff to make the hospital's cardiology department fully operational.

Polio. "I was a Rotarian for many years and never contributed to The Rotary Foundation, because nobody ever asked me. Then one year, our club president made a plea for support for PolioPlus. Since my generation was hit hard by polio, I made a commitment to contribute every month. By the end of the year, it had become a habit to contribute each month, just like paying rent. That habit continues today, many years later, and each year I become more aware of how much good the Foundation does." — *Rotarian Dave Berry*

Matching Grants. Even a small club can make a big difference when participating in a Matching Grant. While Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Marana in District 5500 were traveling in Zimbabwe, they found a man who was obviously hungry. These Rotarians worked with the Rotary Club of Victoria Falls and The Rotary Foundation to create a food garden that feeds an entire village and is self-sustaining for future generations. Rotarian Randy Brooks says: "It truly is amazing how our small club contributions translate into opportunity for those in need of help. It is hard to not be overly proud of Rotary, its members, and The Rotary Foundation."

Supporting the Foundation. " 'Your life and mine will be valued not by what we take, but by what we give.' What an appropriate quote for us Rotarians to live by and open our hearts and pocketbooks to support the works of The Rotary Foundation. Having a healthy foundation is the key to any nonprofit organization involved in the business of service to others, and Rotary is certainly that! We are in the business of giving – giving of our time, our resources, our knowledge, and our love – to make this world free of disease, hunger, poverty, and hopelessness." — *District Governor Deepa Willingham*

September: New Generations Month

This week's Foundation Thought is about ...

Ambassadorial Scholarships. Former Ambassadorial Scholar Chesa Boudin says: “Rotary has profoundly shaped the future of my life. The scholarship exposed me to a huge part of the world that I hadn’t experienced. I became fluent in Spanish, and the service component gave me an appreciation for getting involved in people’s lives.” Boudin is the author of the book *Gringo: A Coming-of-Age in Latin America*.

Every Rotarian, Every Year. “The Rotary Foundation enables clubs all over the world to develop and accomplish self-sustaining projects that change lives and change the world for the better. When you support The Rotary Foundation’s Every Rotarian, Every Year initiative, you personally help fund one of those life-changing projects. Support your Rotary Foundation! Advance world understanding and peace. ... It’s a role you were born to play!”
— *Past District Governor Mike Montgomery, District 5030*

Ambassadorial Scholarships. Former Ambassadorial Scholar and Youth Exchange student Ryan Carrier says: “You can go on a trip somewhere, but that’s not the same thing as living in a place and getting to know the people, seeing their perspectives, and gaining their trust and really being welcomed in a deeper way. It gave me a lot more confidence to do something bigger with my life. If I hadn’t had both of those helping hands along the way from Rotary — the exchange program and the Ambassadorial Scholarship — I wouldn’t have had the opportunities that I have now.” Carrier is now working as a legal officer for the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

Ambassadorial Scholarships. A former Ambassadorial Scholar at the University of North Carolina in the United States, Rinko Kinoshita is using the public health degree she earned with Rotary’s help to aid people in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where more than 250,000 people were displaced in 2008 when violence flared between rebel fighters and government forces. Kinoshita says that without Rotary, she would not be where she is today — working with UNICEF to help those fleeing conflict.

Foundation programs. “Which Rotarian did not have the frequent opportunity to meet or host a member of a visiting **Group Study Exchange** team? Which Rotary club did not have the opportunity to submit a request for a **District Simplified Grant** or **Matching Grant**? Which Rotarian did not have the opportunity to be recognized as an **EREY** contributor, **Paul Harris Fellow**, or **Rotary Foundation Major Donor** or **Benefactor**? The Rotary Foundation provides all of these opportunities and much, much more every day to those in need as well as to those donors who step up and meet those needs.” — *Rotarian Tom Mackin*

October: Vocational Service Month • World Polio Day, 23 October

This week's Foundation Thought is about ...

Alumni. Former Ambassadorial Scholar Alex Buchanan says that knowing he has helped nourish millions of children in developing countries gives him “a pretty good feeling.” A food technologist and member of the Rotary Club of Melbourne, Australia, the 75-year-old Buchanan created the high-protein Australian milk biscuit and the high-energy biscuit, which are staples of his country’s international food aid. For this and many other accomplishments, The Rotary Foundation presented Buchanan with the Global Alumni Service to Humanity Award.

Polio. “Some Rotarians have had the privilege of working with polio survivors to support PolioPlus, and what an inspiration those survivors can be! Clearly, no one understands the need to eradicate polio better than those who struggled with the disease. They challenge us to achieve that final 1 percent and complete this eradication goal, this task of epic proportions. The final stages of eradication will be difficult and when considering a worldwide challenge, the numbers can sometimes be overwhelming. Perhaps it would help to think of it this way: Because you and I prevented polio, somewhere in the world a healthy child is happily playing in the sun. On behalf of all those children, thank you!” — *Rotarian Terry Toone*

Polio. An iron lung was one of the most feared images of the polio epidemics that raged through the United States in the 1940s and 1950s. And it’s where Dianne Odell, of Jackson, Tennessee, spent most of her 61 years until her death in 2008. “She was optimistic that eradicating polio would happen,” says her childhood friend and Rotarian Sheila Campbell. “She was very supportive of what Rotary did. Her hope and prayer was that no child would ever go through what she had.”

Every Rotarian, Every Year. “Our world is filled with conflict and strife, but I believe that fundamentally, people are more alike than they are different. I believe the underlying causes of most of the conflict and strife are poverty, disease, hunger, and illiteracy. The work of The Rotary Foundation addresses all of these critical needs. My annual gifts to The Rotary Foundation enable me to do my small part, and these gifts are magnified by being added to The Rotary Foundation’s resources to bring meaningful help to people in need.”
— *Past District Governor Teree Bergman*

November: Rotary Foundation Month

This week's Foundation Thought is about ...

Supporting the Foundation. “The Foundation belongs to us all. It is our greatest resource for doing good, and it is our responsibility to maintain its strength. I hope every Rotarian will join us by making a contribution to support the Foundation’s programs this year.”

— 2004-05 RI President Glenn E. Estess Sr.

Celebrating our Foundation. “Rotary International’s masterpiece is The Rotary Foundation...It transforms our most daring dreams into the most splendid realities...The Rotary world and even the political world are already aware that The Rotary Foundation is the most generous expression of Rotarian generosity — a generosity that not only brings benefits but also brings help and cooperation to solve the problems that affect mankind...Only God achieves the impossible, but The Rotary Foundation achieves the best that mankind can possibly achieve.” — 1990-91 RI President Paulo V.C. Costa

Celebrating our Foundation. “Since 1905, Rotarians have been ‘torchbearers,’ lighting the way to a better life for many people in many countries. Like Olympic runners, we received a torch from those before us — a torch of service that brings light to the shadow areas of mankind: intolerance, ignorance, disease, and hunger. ... Let people know that Rotary cares and acts.” — 1979-80 RI President James L. Bomar

Every Rotarian, Every Year. “The Rotary Foundation enables our clubs and districts to multiply their service efforts many times over. This effect is increasing as the Foundation’s humanitarian grant projects become larger in scale to profoundly improve the lives of more people. We can help *Make Dreams Real* for children and their families today by giving at least US\$100 to the Annual Programs Fund through the Every Rotarian, Every Year initiative. And we can help ensure their needs will be met tomorrow by building a strong endowment through contributions to the Permanent Fund.”

— 2003-04 RI President Jonathan Majiyagbe

December: Family Month

This week's Foundation Thought is about ...

Leaving your legacy through The Rotary Foundation. “The Rotary Foundation has helped touch lives all over the world by putting polio drops in mouths of children, digging wells so clean water is available for drinking and bathing, providing education opportunities, and much more. By becoming a member of the Bequest Society, you can help ensure that important projects like these continue in the future. If the projects and programs that Rotary completes *today* are important to you, then please become a Bequest Society member so that Rotary is *secure for tomorrow*.” — *Rotarian Jean Waltke*

Supporting the Foundation. “I believe in donating annually to The Rotary Foundation because it's *my* foundation. If I don't do it, then how can I convince others to give?”
— *District Governor Atmaram “Ram” Gawande*

3-H grants. In Nepal, infant mortality is most severe in remote Himalayan villages, areas that are also in short supply of family planning services and economic opportunities. To address these needs, Rotarians have created an extensive training program to bring much-needed prenatal and postnatal services to 10 remote regions. The program is training 52 young women as professional auxiliary nurse midwives. The project, a collaboration between the Rotary clubs of Kathmandu Mid-Town and Darmstadt-Bergstrasse, Germany, is supported by a US\$283,725 Health, Hunger, and Humanity Grant from The Rotary Foundation.

Foundation grants. Nueva Esperanza is a sustainable community in Honduras created for families devastated by Hurricane Mitch. The community was established with the help of a US\$445,000 Rotary Foundation grant. The project provided eye and dental care, medicines, medical equipment, books, computers, and other benefits to the community. The effort enabled women to receive microcredit loans to help generate income, such as a handmade paper business.

Supporting the Foundation. Past RI President James L. Bomar asked: “What is the value of the life of one child saved? No one will ever know, but if the child were our own, the price tag would be marked: Not for Sale – this life is invaluable.” Rotarians and The Rotary Foundation will pay any price; make your annual gift today.

January: Rotary Awareness Month

This week's Foundation Thought is about ...

Celebrating our Foundation. “Through Rotary, with the help of our Foundation, we can take on challenges that no one else has the ability or the inclination or the organizational resources to tackle. We in Rotary share what we have in a way that no one else does — with love, with kindness, and with simple generosity.”

— 2004-05 RI President Glenn E. Estess Sr.

Matching Grants. Jehovah Jireh Haven for Destitute Children is an orphanage in Port Alfred, South Africa, which was home to 57 AIDS orphans living in four small rooms. The orphanage had one small bathroom and no clean water. Because of a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant, the children at Jehovah Jireh now have hope. New beds, more commodes and showers, playground equipment, a commercial washing machine, and new kitchen equipment were added. Additionally, a greenhouse for growing their own vegetables was built. Best of all, the children have clean water. Bring hope to a child: Make your annual gift today.

Group Study Exchange. Past RI Director Bill Cadwallader reflects on the bonds created through a GSE experience over two decades ago. His GSE team has stayed in touch with their host team through yearly telephone “reunions” for 32 years. “Since our trip to District 320 in India in 1978, that Rotary district has become eight new districts. The city of Madras (now Chennai) had 4 Rotary clubs then, and now has 80 clubs and is a district of its own. I was only 40 years old and had not even become district governor when I led the team to India. No doubt, the trip encouraged me to become a district governor because I was placed with outstanding future governors of India and we went through the process together. I have now served Rotary as RI director, with the strong basis of having served as a GSE team leader to one of the best districts in India.”

Future Vision. “You can view the glass as half full or half empty on the topic of Future Vision. However, as we have worked through the steps needed to qualify our clubs and district, smaller clubs have begun to embrace the process and actively seek ways to work with other clubs, both within and outside our district, to create larger, more sustainable projects. Thousands upon thousands of people can be positively impacted by such projects and then we can truly claim that we are living up to our mission of Doing Good in the World. I challenge Rotarians to think big about the Future Vision Plan.” — *Rotarian Cecelia Babkirk*

**February: World Understanding Month • World Understanding and Peace Day,
23 February**

This week's Foundation Thought is about ...

Supporting the Foundation. “The Rotary Foundation has been so effective because it matches money with people. In the words of Arch Klumph: ‘Money alone does little good. Individual service is helpless without money. The two together can be a Godsend to civilization.’ ” From *A Century of Service: The Story of Rotary International* by David C. Forward

Hunger. Can you imagine 854 million dollars, 854 million candy bars, 854 million diamond rings, 854 million people? We all have difficulty in imagining this number, but for the 854 million people who live with chronic hunger, it is not something they try to imagine, but something they must try to survive. Malnutrition is the largest single contributor to disease; it imposes crushing economic burdens on the developing world. Freedom from hunger and malnutrition is a basic human right, and The Rotary Foundation is working to alleviate hunger and malnutrition. Many of the Matching Grants that the Foundation funds are for projects working toward this end of hunger. Every day, Rotarians take action to end the tragedy of world hunger. Make your annual gift today.

Service. “Having fun while helping others is what Rotary is all about. Too often we forget that giving of our money, our time, and our talent to help others through The Rotary Foundation and through local community service projects is one of the most important ways that Rotarians have fun. Sometimes it is working together on a local hands-on service project or fundraiser. Sometimes it is informing people about all that Rotary does for both the world and our local community through The Rotary Foundation. And sometimes it is just that warm, satisfied feeling that comes from knowing we are helping others.”

— *Rotarian Ronn Kerr*

Annual giving. Rotarian Treacy Duerfeldt asks, “If two-thirds of the world — about four billion people — can live on \$2 per day, then shouldn't the rest give at least that much?” Consider making your annual gift today.

March: Literacy Month

This week's Foundation Thought is about ...

Foundation programs. “One day we will awaken to a world where every mother will be able to write her child’s name and that child will be able to grow up to write his or her own name. The world will be *free* of polio; every human being in the world will be able to reach out and drink a clean, clear, glass of water without fear of disease or contamination; we will all breathe-in the fresh, clean air of a world of peace.” This can all be accomplished through the programs of The Rotary Foundation. But we must all give something, any amount, to The Rotary Foundation, every year. — *Past District Governor Don Gregory*

Foundation programs. “Never forget that charitable giving is an emotional response. Emotion is evident when we are telling the polio eradication story. Telling the Annual Programs Fund story can be equally emotional when we emphasize how lives have been changed through The Rotary Foundation’s Ambassadorial Scholarships program, Matching Grants, District Simplified Grants, and Group Study Exchange. Real-life examples are critical to success.” — *Past RRFC Joe LaGuess*

Celebrating our Foundation. “The Rotary Foundation is recognized as one of the most respected private foundations in the world. Through the Foundation, we as Rotarians have an unprecedented opportunity to use our global grassroots strength and international prominence to help solve major problems such as food and water security – if the Foundation’s financial resources keep pace. The twin pillars of Foundation support – the Annual Programs Fund and the Permanent Fund – are crucial to meeting world needs.”
— *2003-04 RI President Jonathan Majiyagbe*

Supporting the Foundation. “Most Rotarians have humanitarian goals they want to achieve. And they know that giving to the Foundation allows Rotarians to do extraordinary things worldwide that they normally couldn’t do themselves. Those extraordinary things are what make our Rotary Foundation so critical in today’s troubled world, and your support is what makes it possible to continue this vital work.” — *2004-05 RI President Glenn E. Estess Sr.*

Foundation programs. Assistant RRFC Harry Henderson says: “The Rotary Foundation has allowed me to be part of things that I never could have done without the help of Rotary. The two weeks I spent in volunteer service with District 3160 in India certainly changed my life. Rotary gave me the chance to help provide a mobile dental clinic and to actually use it to provide dental care. Without the help of our Rotary Foundation, a small town dentist from Southern Illinois like myself could never have had this opportunity. Our Rotary Foundation cannot only change the lives of those we help, but it can also change the lives of Rotarians.”

April: Magazine Month*

This week's Foundation Thought is about ...

Peace. “A skeptic might ask: ‘How can Rotary be a real force for peace? It has no jurisdictional power. It is not a religion. It has no army or tanks, and it insists on being nonpolitical.’ Such a viewpoint looks at peace as something that can be ordered or militarily enforced, as if it is only the responsibility of governments. Rotary has always approached peacemaking systematically — it has sought to break down the barriers that cause people to point fingers at one another. By trying to understand peoples’ points of view and reaching across lines of race, religion, and culture to become partners in service to all mankind, tensions are reduced and friendships are increased. Humanitarian aid has been Rotary’s answer to hunger, sickness, illiteracy, and economic disaster — the seeds of conflict.”
— From *A Century of Service: The Story of Rotary International* by David C. Forward

Rotary Peace Fellows. Former Rotary Peace Fellow Arik Gutler-Ofir, who studied at the University of Queensland, Australia, organized a War, Peace, and Social Justice Festival in Israel. Half of the plays were in Arabic, half in Hebrew. One of Gutler-Ofir’s hopes is that audience members came away knowing they shared concerns other than conflict. About 700 people attended the festival, which showcased nine plays over five days.

Rotary Peace Fellows. Vanessa Contopulos, a 2008-10 Rotary Peace Fellow sponsored by the Rotary Club of Temecula, California, USA (District 5330), attended the University of Bradford in England. Contopulos returned to her native San Diego after her fellowship and picked up her prefellowship work as a music therapist. Her research interests focus on the role of the arts and music in peace-building. She and a colleague are in the process of starting a consultancy called Create4Peace. Its mission is to support peace-building organizations by providing creative resources, workshops, and training. They have already begun working with local organizations and hope to expand their services to national and international opportunities.

Peace. “Hope is the expectation of better things — a polio-free world, a world without hunger, universal peace. It is the spark that keeps a man going, whatever his station. Without it, life is nothing more than existence in despair.” — *1986-87 RI President M.A.T. Caparas*

**This month's Foundation Thoughts also focus on peace and conflict prevention/resolution.*

May*

This week's Foundation Thought is about ...

Peace. “I believe mankind is now on a new brink, not the brink of war but the brink of peace. ... Now is the time for our generation to build from the multitude of conflicting desire and persistent national and economic rivalries a new relationship among peoples, one that frees the energies of nations and their people for the constructive endeavors that will create a better life for all.” — *1977-78 RI President W. Jack Davis*

Clean water. Rotarians put 1,250 biosand filters into homes in the Dominican Republic through a US\$150,000 project supported by a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant. This undertaking was part of the Children's Safe Water Alliance, a project of District 4060 that helped bring 19,000 filters — and clean water — to 100,000 people in 300 communities in just seven years. The alliance was the brainchild of Bob Hildreth, past president of the Rotary Club of Puerto Plata Isabel de Torres, Dominican Republic, and past club president James Bodenner and his wife, Susan, both members of the Rotary Club of Rockford, Michigan, USA.

Water and sanitation. Every day, 5,000 children under age five die from unsafe water and poor sanitation and hygiene. Past RI President William B. Boyd says: “It is true that water is life, and it is also sadly true that too many people have no access to clean, safe, drinkable water. Rotary has the expertise and the worldwide membership to save lives by providing potable water on a large scale.”

Matching Grants. Your contribution to the Annual Programs Fund can literally be the bridge to a better life for people in need. In El Salvador, a US\$17,600 Matching Grant project built three bridges that improved the lives of approximately 2,500 people. The bridges increased agricultural trade, economic growth, and access to health care and education. An unexpected benefit of the project: During excavation for one of the bridges, a high-quality water source was discovered which residents can now access — by crossing the bridge.

**May does not have an official observance on the Rotary calendar. This month's Foundation Thoughts focus on water and sanitation.*

June: Rotary Fellowships Month

This week's Foundation Thought is about...

Foundation programs. Past District Governor Linda Coble says: "I have been a Rotarian since 1987, but I have never dropped polio vaccine into the mouths of babes in faraway countries. I have not rolled up my sleeves to renovate a school in the Philippines with my fellow club members. I have not led a Group Study Exchange team to a foreign country or followed doctors on missions across the sea. But I feel in my heart that I have been there, done that all ... and more. Foundation giving comes in many ways. As a Multiple Paul Harris Fellow, I know that my contributions have enabled my fellow Rotarians who could make a difference up close and personally. I know I was there in the spirit of Service Above Self."

Every Rotarian, Every Year. "The cries for help from pain, suffering, and death can be heard from over one-third of the world. Every 10 seconds, a child dies in the world. Rotary is a humanitarian organization that can make a difference. By meeting our district Annual Programs Fund goal, we can make the world a better place. Support the Every Rotarian, Every Year effort. Give to the Annual Programs Fund. Your gift is a gift of life."

— *Rotarian Bob Holloway*

Matching Grant partnerships. Two Rotarians met on Facebook, which resulted in 10 Rotary clubs in two countries completing a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant. Rotary clubs in India and the United States joined in a Matching Grant to install water purification systems in eight schools, benefiting almost 6,000 students. Grant funds were used to purchase and install the water purifiers in each school. This project provides clean water to the students, many of them with no previous access to clean water, resulting in fewer cases of waterborne illnesses. Rotarians have seen the students' interest in learning and school attendance improve, as well as their sense of self-worth. — *Rotarian Helene Bo Morse*

Foundation programs. "The Rotary Foundation exists to help Rotarians 'repair' the world when things go wrong...and since things go wrong a lot, we're *very* busy! If we're going to repair the world, we'll need some tools and a toolbox. It is the programs we participate in and the projects we complete through The Rotary Foundation that are the tools in our Rotary toolbox. We have the tools, but we need to keep up with the ever increasing need for more of them, and that is where the financial support of The Rotary Foundation comes into play. We must support the Annual Programs Fund of our Foundation through the Every Rotarian, Every Year initiative. Each of us holds Rotary in a special place in our minds and our hearts. We have the opportunity every day to decide how we will use Rotary's tools to make the world a better place." — *Rotarian Barb Feder*

Celebrating the Foundation. In this excerpt from his poem "After All," 1959-60 RI President Harold Thomas celebrates the good that Rotary does in the world. Congratulations on another successful Rotary year!

Bridges of friendship could be built
Where in war men's blood was spilt
Bridges built in Rotary's way

Bridges built to speed the day
When peace and concord will hold sway
That man may reach his long-sought goal
Neighbors all from pole to pole
One human race with ties that bind
One humane world, one humankind.