

Foundation Goals for 2013-14

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2013-14 Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair

Good morning.

It is a great joy to see so many friends and fellow Rotarians here at our international convention.

A Rotary convention is the high point of the year for every Rotarian fortunate enough to attend. It is an opportunity to reflect on the year that is about to end, to see old friends and make new ones. And it is a chance to look forward, toward the year that we will soon begin.

As incoming Rotary Foundation chair, I am looking forward to an exciting year of change, growth, and new achievements for our Rotary Foundation.

In 2013-14, we have set four goals for our Foundation. They are: eradicate polio, build ownership and pride in our Foundation, launch our new grant model, and engage in innovative partnerships and projects.

Our first goal is no surprise to any of you, since it has been our first goal for many years. We all know that we must eradicate polio. We have come so far: We have immunized over 2 billion children, and endemic poliovirus is gone from all but three countries in the world. My friends, we are “this close” to ending polio.

But this last effort is the hardest. The budget for the new strategic plan is US\$5.5 billion. We still have a significant funding gap. And although new outbreaks of polio are decreasing, every one must be met with a response that is immediate, massive, and costly.

In Korea, we have a proverb: 괴로움이 있으면 즐거움도 있다. It means: After hardships come happiness. Polio eradication is hard work, but when we have finished — when we have eradicated polio — we will have achieved something wonderful. And that is why eradicating polio is our first Foundation goal.

Our second goal is building ownership and pride in our Foundation. PolioPlus is successful because Rotarians believe in our commitment and support it financially. We give to polio eradication because we see very clearly what our money is doing and what we are helping to achieve. We all take pride in knowing that the money we give is helping to buy a polio-free world.

But many Rotarians do not have the same pride and ownership of the Foundation’s

Permanent Fund and Annual Fund. We are still falling short of our goal of Every Rotarian, Every Year. Why? Because Rotarians do not know what good works the Permanent Fund and Annual Fund enable us to do.

The Permanent and Annual Fund are what make Rotary International more than just an association of Rotary clubs. They allow us to share our resources, work together, and bring our work to a higher level. The greater our Foundation's resources, the greater our own ability as Rotarians to meet the needs of our communities.

Our goal for the annual fund in 2013-14 will be \$120 million.

If we want the freedom to be ambitious in our service, we must know that we have a strong Foundation supporting us. And if we want to know that Rotary will endure, we need a strong Permanent Fund — for whatever lies ahead. In order to enhance the Permanent Fund, a new Fund Development Committee and Endowment/Major Gifts advisers have been appointed to assist in this effort.

Our third goal is full rollout of the grant model that we have been calling Future Vision. We have been very excited to see how well the Future Vision Plan has worked with the pilot districts. The feedback so far has been very positive, and we have had the time and opportunity to make the necessary improvements and adjustments. Rotarians in pilot clubs have found the new structure easier to understand, and to use. And we have seen as well that their feeling of commitment to our Foundation has become stronger.

Soon, we will all be using the new grant model. I am confident that this is a positive change for Rotary. We know that it will be a very large change. And we know that such change is always difficult. But we also know that it is the right move at the right time for Rotary. The new model will enable us to help more people, in more lasting ways. It will ensure that our good work will last and have the greatest impact. As stewards of our Foundation, this is our goal, and our responsibility.

Our fourth goal is to engage in innovative partnerships and projects, to expand our reach and our impact.

Rotary has a tremendous reach, and can do a great deal. But one thing that we all know in Rotary is that we can do more together than we can alone. When we work with local NGOs and other organizations, we gain more knowledge and more insight. We add to our resources and our abilities. And we build more bridges of understanding, friendship, and cooperation.

By partnering with others throughout the world, we often achieve more, and learn more, than we set out to do. This is an important way that we build *Peace Through Service*.

We have learned, through our long history in polio eradication, how effective such

partnerships can be. Our many global partners have made polio eradication possible and have helped us to achieve a great deal of good along the way. This is an important lesson, and it is one that we must build on in the years ahead.

Our theme for the new Rotary year is *Engage Rotary, Change Lives*. It is time for all of us to engage our Rotary service — and engage our Rotary Foundation. It is time for us all to recognize that all of the good that Rotary does begins with each of us — with the work we do in our clubs, and our generosity to our Rotary Foundation.

President-elect Ron has asked all of us to remember that the Rotary Foundation is our Foundation. The Foundation is there to support our service, and it is our responsibility to support it. In this way, all of us can be a part of all of the wonderful work that Rotarians are doing all over the world.

My friends, I look forward with you to a wonderful year of service, and new beginnings for our Foundation. I wish you all an enjoyable convention and a new Rotary year — of Doing Good in the World, as we *Engage Rotary, Change Lives*.

Thank you.