

Weekly Rotary Foundation Thoughts



Educating Rotarians about the work of The Rotary Foundation is one of the most effective tools for 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?

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1) This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about the founder of our Foundation, Arch C. Klumph.

A member of the Rotary Club of Cleveland, Ohio, USA, Klumph served as the RI president in the 1913-14 Rotary year. In 1917, Klumph declared that “we should accept endowments for the purpose of doing good in the world in charitable, educational, and other avenues of community service.” His vision and a contribution of US\$26 left over from the RI Convention helped to establish the charitable and humanitarian arm of our organization, The Rotary Foundation.

Due to the hard work and generosity of Rotarians worldwide, The Rotary Foundation has improved lives for over 90 years. With ongoing financial support, our Foundation will continue to carry on Klumph's dream well into our second century of service.

2) This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about PolioPlus.

In 1985, Rotarians made a promise to the children of the world to eradicate polio. Since PolioPlus began, the number of polio cases worldwide has declined by 99 percent, thanks largely to the efforts of Rotarians around the world. Rotarians have committed nearly US\$650 million toward global polio eradication efforts. Already, five million children are walking who would have been paralyzed, and more than 1.5 million lives have been saved. None of this would be possible if it weren't for Rotary's leadership and vision.

What a wonderful legacy we are leaving to the children of the world. Goodbye Polio. Thank you, Rotary.

3) This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about Every Rotarian, Every Year.

Every minute of every day someone's life is being improved by our Rotary Foundation. Wells are being dug in India, blind children are using Braille typewriters in Brazil, toilets are part of improved sanitation in Sri Lanka, and dental treatment is available to the needy in Nicaragua. In a world where the divide between the haves and have-nots is growing, we as Rotarians must do our part and “do good in the world.”

Every Rotarian, every project, and every contribution makes a difference every year.

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4) This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about District Simplified Grants.

District Simplified Grants allow Rotary clubs to identify, plan, and fund worthy projects in their own communities or internationally. Grants can fund improvements such as kitchen equipment for a food pantry, assistance for after-school programs, dictionaries or encyclopedias for primary school children, or renovations to a playground. The more we contribute to our Foundation's Annual Programs Fund, the more opportunities and funding we will have for such projects.

The Rotary Foundation allows us to “do good in the world” here in our own community, as well as internationally.

5) This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about a Rotary World Peace Fellow at work on the frontlines.

Izabela Pereira, a 2007 graduate of the Rotary Center for International Studies at Universidad del Salvador in Argentina, helped monitor Nicaragua's recent election as part of an Organization of American States (OAS) mission to the country. Izabela says her experience as a Rotary World Peace Fellow and an OAS observer gave her a firsthand understanding of how democracy is being promoted and strengthened in Nicaragua. She has also conducted fieldwork in Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire for the United Nations Development Fund for Women.

Izabela is one of hundreds of Rotary World Peace Fellows who have received the training and field experience necessary to work for lasting peace and stability throughout the world.

6) This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about bringing smiles to those in need.

Mother Theresa said “Peace Begins with a Smile” Rotarians around the world put that into action every day. One example of this is a Rotary Foundation Volunteer Service Grant that helped Dr. Marco Antonio Bulas, of the Rotary club of Tehuacan Manantrails, Mexico and Rotary volunteers from the Rotary Club of Loveland, Colorado, USA carry out project Sonrisas Sin Fronteras (Smiles without Borders). The Rotary volunteers and a team of 23 university dental students provided dentures for 22 patients. “All of the team watched with great satisfaction as each patient was over come with joy and happiness” commented Ronnie Hogan, a member of the Loveland club.

Every Rotarian, Every Year can bring a smile to the face of someone in need.

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7) This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about The Annual Programs Fund.

The Annual Programs Fund is the primary source of unrestricted support for the programs of the Rotary Foundation. It funds programs in more than 160 countries on seven continents. From digging clean water wells for villages in Africa to teaching basic literacy skill to children in Latin America, during any given moment in a day, thousands of Rotarians volunteer their time and expertise ensure that all contributions given to The Annual Programs Fund are spent wisely on quality Rotary projects.

Only if *Every Rotarian* makes a gift to the Annual Programs Fund *Every Year*, will we will be able to continue to do the great work of our Rotary Foundation.

8) This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about Matching Grants.

Rotary Clubs in Wisconsin, USA created the *Power Flour Action Network* to make an impact on the lives of infants and severely malnourished children and adults. *Power Flour* has targeted malnourished populations in 65 countries to date, providing a very small amount of barley malt flour to cooked starchy staples, such as rice, wheat or maize. The supplement helps digest the starch, converting it into sugars the body can absorb quickly and easily. The sugars *power* the body so that it can grow and function. A Matching Grant from The Rotary Foundation has enabled Rotarians in Wisconsin to bring *Power Flour* to children in orphanages and feeding programs in Panama. Rotarians in the Rotary del Norte club in Panama will carry out the distribution and training in Panama to reach up to 10,000 children in the first year. Members of the Sturgeon Bay, WI, USA club are now working to develop a commercial model for *PowerFlour* so that it will become self-sustaining. *Every Rotarian, Every Year* – Nourishing bodies and minds.

9) This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about how effectively our Foundation matches people with money for positive results.

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." Your financial resources combined with your time, energy and talent is critical to Rotary's mission. It is worth noting that one hundred percent of our Annual Programs Fund (APF) contributions are spent on Foundation programs. These contributions are invested for a period of three years, with a portion of the investment earnings paying for the Foundation's administrative and fund development expenses.

This unique funding cycle keeps the engine of The Rotary Foundation running throughout the world.

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10) This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about bridging the world's needs.

During the rainy season in Ethiopia many rural communities are isolated by fast flowing flooded rivers that separate them from vital aspects of life. With support from a Rotary Foundation Matching grant eight foot bridges were built to alleviate these villages isolation. Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and the Rotary Club of Gloucester, Virginia, USA these bridges will improve the living conditions of local communities and provide them with access to life's daily needs. So even during the rainy season in Ethiopia, Rotarians will know that through contributions to The Rotary Foundation they helped provide a bridge out of isolation for these eight communities.

11) This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about being a Rotary Foundation Sustaining Member.

What can you get for US\$100 dollars these days? A pair of shoes, a nice dinner for two or a stove for a needy family in rural Guatemala, A contribution of \$100 to the Annual Programs Fund will make you a Sustaining Member of The Rotary Foundation but it also provides life-changing opportunities for those in need.

When you choose to support our Rotary Foundation you are making a difference in two ways: you are changing lives and you are literally saving lives. What an amazing thing to be able to say!

12) This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about the Rotary Peace and Conflict Studies Program (RPCS) – strengthening the leaders of today for peace.

Mid-career professionals from around the world, representing a wide variety of fields, participate in an intensive three month course at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand. RPCS Program alumnus Richelieu Allison, Regional Director of the West African Youth Network, says, "This course has been the missing link in my [ability] to contribute to the resolution of the numerous problems confronting my region. If I had had the knowledge I am gaining now I would have been in a better position to adequately analyze the conflicts, map out the various actors, go the extra mile, and play a major role in helping to restore peace." This sentiment has stuck with him, as he wrote in a recent email, "The changes [the program] made in my life cannot be overemphasized." Create awareness. Take action. Make your annual gift today!

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13) 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. We're asking every Rotarian to support our Foundation with a minimum US\$100 contribution. At the President-elect Training Seminar (PETS) 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. Many clubs are exceeding that goal now. "We decided to try for a total of \$600,000 or \$200 per capita in our district," says PDG Holly Callen, D5950. "It seemed like a real stretch and it took us three years to get there, but by setting an ambitious goal, we were able to achieve it. This year we have raised the goal to \$1million - \$300 per Rotarian!" As our club sets its goal for the coming year, we should also remember to measure our success by the number of lives we've saved and changed.

14) This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about Rotary's Disaster Recovery efforts.

Pakistani Rotarians are bringing education back into the lives of those in Pakistan and India affected by the earthquake of 2005. In Azad Kashmir more than 80% of the schools were either completely destroyed or badly damaged. The local Disaster Recovery Committee in Pakistan decided to focus its efforts on rebuilding schools. They will help rebuild five new, environmentally-friendly schools equipped with electricity, running water, bathroom facilities, and furniture and school supplies. Children and families throughout Azad Kashmir will be profoundly impacted by the efforts of Pakistani Rotarians.

Every Rotarian, Every Year – Working together to make life better – for Everyone!

15) This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about the generosity and dedication of our Foundation Alumni.

Former Rotary Peace Fellow from Norway Gert Danielsen, out of a desire to give something back, pledged to donate US\$1,000 every year for the rest of his life to the Rotary Centers program and challenged other peace fellows to do the same. Inspired by Danielsen's generosity, Peace Fellow Scott Lang of the United States took up the challenge and also pledged \$1,000 annually. "My challenge and support reflects a keen desire to give back to the Rotary family now that I am able to do so," Danielsen says. "Giving a gift annually that I know will inspire Rotarians and others to give more and provide peace-building opportunities for even more people is a huge privilege to me." The commitment made by these two Foundation Alumni is a true testament to the quality of the Peace Fellows and the Rotary Centers program.

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16) This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about what a US\$100 can do.

It is as simple as having a notebook, pencil and glue. In Pavas, a poor district in San Jose, Costa Rica a packet of educational materials means the difference between an education and working on the street. Most public schools in Costa Rica are under funded and lack many basic supplies, so the Rohrmoser Rotary Club, Costa Rica developed a packet of teaching materials for students and partnered with the Vancouver Rotary Club, Canada to distribute 777 packets to children in five very poor elementary schools. \$100 buys 15 packets. Without this project many students would not be able to continue their education and would be forced to drop out of school.

When *Every Rotarian, Every Year* participates, our foundation is able to continue to build a brighter future for the children of the world.

17) This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about fundraising for PolioPlus Partners.

What would you do to eradicate Polio? Would you shave off all your hair? Rotarians in District 5040 did just that and raised \$10,000 for PolioPlus Partners. Would you hike 2,658 miles over six months? Rotarian Chrissy Wallace of California did to raise money for Rotary's PolioPlus program. Would you cycle 4,165 miles on the TransAmerica Trail? Rotarian Robert Keegan of Tennessee did to benefit PolioPlus Partners. Dedicated individuals, clubs and districts continue to promote and support PolioPlus Partners at every opportunity possible. Many districts also gift their District Designated Funds to the polio effort. What can you do for PolioPlus Partners?

18) This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about Group Study Exchange (GSE).

A GSE team from Holland spent four weeks in California, USA. During their time in California, the Dutch GSE team raised \$2,913 for the Inca Educa charity based in Cusco, Peru to build a school library for underprivileged young adults. The team, led by retired firefighter, Bob Boersma, was composed of people from diverse professions: working in public service, administrative law, public broadcasting and financial services. The team participated in vocational and cultural days and returned home, having made new friends and business contacts, ready to share new ideas with their Dutch countrymen. Has your club sponsored a GSE? It's a great way to create Service through Acquaintance. Contributions to our Foundation are the oil that makes the Rotary Wheel of service turn.

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19) This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about becoming a Paul Harris Fellow or what a \$1000 dollar contribution can do.

A US contribution of \$1000 helps provide seven toilets in Sri Lanka. More than 2.6 billion people still lack access to proper sanitation. Most people in the developed world do not think about their sanitation system unless it is not working properly, but in Sri Lanka many people lack access to proper sanitation facilities. The Rotary club of Ja-Ela Kandana, Sri Lanka partnering with the Rotary Club of Madras Northwest, India took the matter into their own hands and obtained a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant to provide sanitation to a small community comprising 15 families. They built 14 toilets providing the families with proper sanitation. This will insure a reduction in illness and increase the health and wellness of this community. Rotarians meet the needs of the world by working through the Rotary Foundation.

20) This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about how a Matching Grant can make a difference.

Last year Rotary clubs in Brazil and Mexico and the United states joined together in a matching grant to aid the Lar das Crianças Children's Home in Tanabi, Brazil. This institution provides free extracurricular activities and much needed daycare for low income families. A matching grant was used to help the Home purchase uniforms for all of the children. Each student also received school supplies, gym shoes, swimsuits and caps. Tanabi Rotarians have seen the student's interest in learning and participating in activities improve as well as the children's sense of self worth after the uniforms and equipment arrived. This is just one of the many examples of how the Foundation's humanitarian grants programs can make positive changes for children.

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

For the first time in southern African history, a group study exchange has taken place between two formerly conflicting countries. In November 2006 a GSE team from Zambia visited South Africa, signifying improved relations between the two countries. This exchange was made possible from a contribution of district designated funds from District 9210 to District 9300. With the end of Apartheid in South Africa, these young professionals are now able to talk to one another and share ideas and common interests that will help their countries look to the future in peace. Some of the greatest stories being told today started with a contribution to The Rotary Foundation. Let's make sure our club is part of the Rotary story.

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22) This week's **Rotary Foundation thought** is about why we support our Foundation.

Every minute of every day someone's life is being improved by our Rotary Foundation. Rotary clubs on every continent are working to improve the living conditions and health of their fellow citizens. Rotarians like you and me can make a difference by continually supporting our Foundation and the Annual Programs Fund. As Rotarians we determine where funds are allocated through District Designated Funds, which we can use for local projects or matching grants in another country. When we contribute to our Foundation we are promoting worldwide *Peace and Understanding*. Only if *Every Rotarian Every Year* makes a gift to the Annual Programs Fund will we will be able to continue to do the great work of The Rotary Foundation.

23) This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about the Programs of The Rotary Foundation. When the Foundation's founder Arch C Klumph said:

"The Rotary Foundation is not to build monuments of brick and stone. If we work upon marble, it will perish; if we work on brass, time will efface it....but if we work upon immortal minds, if we imbue them with the full meaning of the spirit of Rotary, we are engraving on those tablets something that will brighten all eternity. "

The Educational, Humanitarian and PolioPlus Programs are the monuments of the Foundation and Rotarians should be proud to yell it from the roof tops. We will eradicate polio, hunger and poverty. We will help the world find peace. By supporting the Rotary Foundation with an annual gift you help build these immortal monuments of Rotary.

24) This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** highlights the unique relationship between two Rotary Peace and Conflict Studies Program (RPCS) alumni.

Raveendra Pathiramage, senior state counsel in the attorney general's office in Sri Lanka, and Thevananth Thevanayagam, program manager for the Refugees Rehabilitation Organization in Sri Lanka providing food, shelter, rehabilitation, and other assistance to Tamil refugees, found themselves unlikely classmates in the inaugural session of the RPCS Program. After arguing incessantly, the two formed a strong bond, united in a desire to bring peace to their homeland. "We erased the hard feelings and went on to 'What can we do to solve the problem? What can we contribute?'" said Pathiramage. The two remain close friends even a year after completing the three-month program, which Pathiramage describes as more useful than a year's worth of graduate study. Every minute of every day somewhere in the world our Rotary Foundation is making a difference in someone's life.

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25) This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about micro credit.

In Cuzco, Peru Rotarians contributed \$10,000 to a partnering association, Asociacion MIDE, which provided small loans to 288 low-income women. In six months these women improved their businesses and living standards, lifting them out of extreme poverty. While local Rotarians had the opportunity to work together to develop the project and approve the system of loans, the participants learned to use, administer and benefit from financial credit. In the process, the women improved their self-esteem as they acquired entirely new roles of financial responsibility for their families. How do I focus my giving? *Every Rotarian, Every Year* – Giving is hope in action.

26) This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about a Rotarian going the distance for the Foundation.

Running, biking and swimming 482 miles in the course of a year or even a month is hardly the marvel of sports headlines. But racking up that distance in three days staggers the imagination. Jeff Glidden did just that through his Ultra Distance Triathlon Challenge, raising \$100,000 and counting, as of June 2007 for the Annual Programs Fund. "It was difficult" said Glidden, "but it was more rewarding than anything I have ever done. Many Rotarians that had never given before contributed and supported me, that was definitely one of my goals" Corporate sponsors helped fuel Glidden's mega-triathlon challenge by each contributing at least \$1000. Local media coverage also raised overall awareness of Rotary. All the proceeds from Glidden's challenge went to support The Rotary Foundation.

27) This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about becoming a Bequest Society member and leaving your legacy through The Rotary Foundation.

This is best expressed through a quote from the founder of The Rotary Foundation and Past RI President, Arch C. Klumph

"...There are tens of thousands of Rotarians who will look upon this opportunity (building the Rotary Foundation as a real privilege)...Then there are other men who are seeking ways and means of leaving some part of their wealth where it may do the greatest good for humanity. What better equipped organization or institution than Rotary International can be found to be entrusted with such funds?"

Join with fellow Rotarians past and present who have left their legacy by remembering the foundation in their estate plans.

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28) This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** highlights the cooperation between two Rotary Peace and Conflict Studies Program alumni.

Rotary Peace and Conflict Studies Program alumnus, Francis Kabosha is busy repatriating refugees in Zambia back to their homeland in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Through the repatriation process, Francis also educates the leaders of the repatriated groups in the ways of peace to help them build and maintain peace in their home areas. He recently called his fellow RPCS alumnus, Abdulai Jalloh, logistics officer for the United Nations in DRC, to say, "I'm giving them the tools to build peace, you must ensure they reach their destinations safely." Francis and Abdulai now work together to build peace in the region. Keep in mind, every dollar that you contribute to The Rotary Foundation goes to actual program spending.

29) This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about a matching grant that has helped turn waste into profit for Philippine coconut farmers.

With the aid of a Foundation matching grant, the Livelihood Project gives local farmers the supplies and labor to turn wasted coconut husks into "coconets", which have environmental and economic benefits for the community. The project increased employment levels for women and out of school youth while reviving the local coconut industry. Coconut husks, which are a huge source of agricultural waste, are now used to make coconets which help provide an environmentally friendly solution to land erosion and degradation. Another husk byproduct, coconut dust is used as a soil enhancer and organic fertilizer. This is an example of how The Rotary Foundation is helping smaller communities throughout the world and is ensuring that economic growth reaches the poorer communities.

30) This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** about the PolioPlus Program.

Rotary launched its PolioPlus program in 1985 and contributions to the PolioPlus Fund continue to support the most essential components of polio eradication activities in our partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO), the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and UNICEF. With Rotary's community-based network worldwide, Rotary is the volunteer arm of the global partnership dedicated to eradicating polio. By volunteering and supporting the PolioPlus program, Rotarians do the work of the world with every Polio vaccine administered!

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31) This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about Health, Hunger and Humanity Grants (3H).

In Romania orphaned and ill children are consuming donated eggs, milk, meat and poultry because of a grant from The Rotary Foundation that benefits local farmers. Farmers use the grant to buy everything from animal feed to packaging materials. There is one stipulation, the farmers have to donate a portion of their products to children's hospital, schools and orphanages. 3H grants fund large long-term international, grassroots projects. By contributing to The Rotary Foundation you are taking part in these grants. The Rotary Foundation is our Foundation; it is critical that we take ownership of it and do what we can to change and save lives.

32) This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about District Simplified Grants (DSG).

In Australia, Rotarians received District Simplified Grants both small and large to benefit local communities and communities abroad. One club used DSG funds to provide jackets displaying the Rotary Wheel to a team of Blind Bowlers which they wore proudly to the national Championships. Other DSGs were used to establish a library for foster children, repair a broken fence around a Scout Hall and provide 30 sets of Junior Encyclopedias to schools in Thailand. Through the creativity and passion of numerous Rotarians, one district improved the lives of countless people both within Australia and abroad. *Every Rotarian, Every Year* – Hope begins with us.

33) Ever wonder how your Rotary club and district can make a positive impact for peace, right now?

This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about how your club and district can support the Rotary Peace and Conflict Studies Program – a professional development program that is strengthening the leaders of today for peace. Beyond supporting the program financially, clubs and districts can actively recruit qualified applicants for each bi-annual program session. Each district can submit as many candidates for each program session as they deem qualified. As one alumnus recently put it, “The program has been nothing short of fantastic. I couldn't ask for more.” Give Peace a fighting chance by opening the door for candidates in your District.

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34) This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is an inspiring quote from Paul Harris that can be assimilated to the challenge to eradicate Polio worldwide:

“I like to think that the pioneering days of Rotary have just begun. What’s 40 years in the life of a great Movement? There are just as many new things to be done as ever there were. Rotary must simply continue to pioneer or be left in the rear of progress.” Over 60 years later, Paul Harris’ words are just as meaningful. There are still so many new things to achieve and promises to keep. If every district allocates 10% of its available District Designated Funds (DDF) this year to the PolioPlus Partners Program, we can reach the \$5 million goal needed to fund National Immunization Days in India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria and fulfill our commitment. Remember what Paul Harris said - we must all strive to be PIONEERS on the long road to PEACE.

35) This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about making a Major Gift to the Annual Programs Fund of The Rotary Foundation.

Tom and Fran Bayless of Ohio are passionate about Rotary and support the Foundation in many ways. Tom made his wife, Fran, a Paul Harris Fellow to celebrate the birth of their first child. Their children became Paul Harris Fellows on special birthdays. Following open heart surgery, Tom and Fran decided to become major donors to the Foundation in celebration of her recovery. Said Fran, “Anything we can do, we should do. . . Where does your backyard end?”

Our investment in time, talent and financial resources are an investment in making the world a safer and healthier place for our children and grandchildren.

36) This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about Volunteer Service Grants.

Rotarian Dr. Charles Erickson traveled from Nebraska, USA to Zambia in order to provide medical care at an orphanage. Sponsored by Rotary clubs in both countries, Dr. Erickson performed hemoglobin determinations on 30 orphans. Nutritional counseling was provided to patients at the local clinic and at general health education sessions. During his month-long stay, Erickson initiated a malaria control program, battling the number one health problem in the area. Through mutual collaboration, the host and international sponsoring clubs have formed a solid partnership and hope to implement many more projects together in the future. How do I determine how much to give now? – *Every Rotarian, Every Year!*

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37) This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought**: Arch C. Klumph, Well-rounded Citizen.

This week's Rotary Foundation Thought is about Living a Full and Well-rounded Life, as illustrated by the founder of our Foundation, Arch C. Klumph. From our archives: *Arch had a great love of music. At age 18 he began to study the flute, and three years later he received a chair in the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra. He played with the orchestra for 14 years and was a lifelong sponsor of it. "My heart is in music and my head is in business," he said.* Arch balanced his love of music and theater with his professional business and dreamed huge dreams beyond Cleveland to the theater of the world, with spectacular success. One of those dreams was The Rotary Foundation. Your contribution to The Rotary Foundation keeps Arch Klumph's dream alive and fulfills the dreams of many people around the world who need our help.

38) This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about the impact of a Group Study Exchange (GSE).

For Stephen Rajamani, an insurance broker in Tamilnadu Province, India the GSE experience was life-changing. Rajamani initially traveled to Brazil to learn about the culture and lifestyle and to learn about insurance practices there. His team visited many businesses, educational institutions and government offices. What Rajamani realized is that human beings are alike every where throughout the world, from the mayors and dignitaries who extended a warm welcome to the host families who showered the team members with affection. Upon returning home, Rajamani became a member of the Rotary Club of Manapparai and showed his gratitude to The Rotary Foundation by becoming a Paul Harris Fellow in his first year. *Every Rotarian, Every Year – Be a part of it. Make your annual gift today.*

39) This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about PolioPlus Partners.

In 1995, a second sub-program of PolioPlus, the PolioPlus Partners program, was developed to allow Rotarians the opportunity to directly contribute to polio eradication projects submitted by fellow Rotarians in polio-endemic, importation, and high-risk countries. The Partners program allows Rotarians to choose a project or country that interests them the most by selecting from the PolioPlus Partners Open Projects List available on the polio section of the RI Web site. Over \$48 million has been contributed to over 600 projects since then.

There is still a significant, urgent and ongoing need today. Please consider giving our fellow Rotarians your support.

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40) This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about opening doors for those in need.

A Rotary Foundation matching grant for US\$38,900 helped the Rotary Clubs of Istanbul-Findikli, Turkey and East Salem, Oregon, USA purchase six sound-proof booths and equipment to record books from Istanbul's Beyazit Library. Books on CD and MP3 give blind patrons of the library greater access to knowledge and learning and help to improve the literacy rate in Turkey. Through contributions to The Rotary Foundation Rotarians become partners in opening doors for those in need.

41) This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about Ambassadorial Scholar Alumni.

Four alumni who traveled from the USA to study in Buenos Aires, Argentina have formed Project Patagonia, which provides educational support for school children. The alumni are constructing a multi-media library to meet both short and long-term educational needs at two schools for low-income students in rural Argentina. They are also providing school supplies and nutritional support. Ambassadorial Scholars represent the very best in intellect and character and they are future Rotarians. *Every Rotarian, Every Year* – imagine all we can accomplish today and tomorrow. Consider inviting local Rotary Foundation alumni to become members of your Rotary club.

42) This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is an update on polio eradication efforts in 2007.

2007 saw the continued use of new tools and the development of new tactics that led to a reduction of polio cases and stopped the circulation of imported polio virus in 22 re-infected countries. There are new commitments from country leaders and a new Case for Completing Polio Eradication, but the Global Polio Eradication Initiative faces a significant funding gap. We need Rotarians' ongoing commitment or else polio eradication will not occur. Your support is vital in finishing the job!

Our gift to the world will be Polio Eradication!

Weekly Rotary Foundation Thoughts



43) This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about Changing and Saving Lives.

Have you ever considered that your contribution to The Rotary Foundation may mean the difference between life and death? Rotary Foundation Matching Grant projects have helped provide the Malawi Children's Village (MCV) with everything from clean water, food and medications to blankets, sewing machines and a windmill. The Rotary Club of Canandaigua, New York, USA and Chakunga Sibale, director of the MCV, founded the program in 1997 and it is supported locally by the Rotary Club of Limbe. "The MCV has had a very great effect to relieve the suffering of children in my country," says Sibale. Rotarian's contributions to this project have literally meant the difference between life and death for many of the children in the MCV program.

44) This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about cheering for The Foundation.

"I became a true Rotarian. It was that GSE experience. It was a defining moment. I came back and realized that the Foundation was my charity of choice and that I had to convince others that it should be theirs also."

The visit to a makeshift school during a Group Study Exchange in South Africa helped to change Rotarian John Tomalson from Canada. He learned that real teaching is about the love of teaching; he also learned what it meant to be a Rotarian. As the team leader of his GSE team he was already a dedicated Rotarian but what he saw in South Africa made him not just a Rotarian but a cheerleader for the Rotary Foundation. He saw first hand the importance of the Rotary Foundation's programs and the impact they have on the world. Through John's efforts and the Rotary Club of Bolton, ONT, Canada that makeshift school he visited has now benefited from two matching grants. Meanwhile John is busy telling everyone about The Rotary Foundation and why Every Rotarian, Every Year is his charity of Choice.

45) This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about Matching Grants.

Rotary clubs in Honduras and Pennsylvania, USA partnered together to receive a Matching Grant to provide eye and vision care to needy people in Honduras. During a 10-day long mission, Rotarians from both clubs worked to provide a wide variety of vision services through clinics held at local schools and neighborhoods. Over 1,200 individuals were evaluated and 600 received prescription eyeglasses. A local non-governmental organization will continue to provide eyeglasses and medications to those in need. Improved eyesight can translate into improved educational or occupational opportunities, contributing greatly to improved quality of life. To be a Rotarian means to give of our time, talent and financial resources. Will you make that sacrifice so others may have a better life.

Weekly Rotary Foundation Thoughts



46) This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about Matching Grants and how one project brought clean water and hope for a better future.

Matching Grants assist Rotary clubs and districts in carrying out humanitarian projects with clubs in other countries. A recent Foundation Matching Grant allowed Rotarians in India to provide 36 hand-pump wells to rural villages in Andhra Pradesh state where there is a severe shortage of water. Access to clean water will improve the quality of life for those living in these villages by helping to prevent disease and alleviate poverty. Every Rotarian, every project, and every contribution makes a difference every year.

47) This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about the Permanent Fund.

When reflecting on our personal estates and the legacy we want to leave, have we thought about how much we can afford to give away? Trustee Louis Piconi shares these inspiring remarks: *“Rotarians of today are leaving a legacy to the children of the world when we, Rotary, join our world partners in the celebration of the certification of the eradication of polio from the world. More importantly, and I do mean more importantly, is the fact that the Rotarians of today and tomorrow have the opportunity to leave their own legacy of ‘doing good in the world’ for future educational and humanitarian service programs. Do we dare dream that Rotarians of today not only make it a habit of making an annual contribution each and every year, but leave a percentage of their estate or a one-time significant gift to The Rotary Foundation’s Permanent Fund? This should be the dream, goal and reality of all Rotarians. We need just look and see and feel and touch the wonderful programs and projects we are continually completing that help the world know a more humane society and a more peaceful world.”*

48) This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about District Simplified Grants.

A dictionary may not be your first choice for an exciting read, but for many students, it's the key to unlocking a world of amazing information. Using District Simplified Grants, Rotary clubs in Southwest Florida, USA, distributed dictionaries to every third grader in District 6960. Clubs worldwide use these grants to support short-term humanitarian projects in their communities.

One club, one grant, one Rotarian can bring wonder to the eyes of a child

Weekly Rotary Foundation Thoughts



49) This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about Polio.

The goal of polio eradication remains elusive, with four countries still polio-endemic. In recent years, some in the scientific community have raised a difficult question: Can the world eradicate polio, or should we try to contain it?

According to an article by Harvard researchers, controlling the disease would be far more costly than eradicating it. The developing world can save more than \$1 billion a year by eradicating, while switching to a control strategy would condemn 10 million children to polio over the next 40 years alone.

We must not lose sight of our vision of a world without polio. We must finish our work and hold true to our promise to the children of the world.

50) This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about sponsoring Ambassadorial Scholars.

“I am confident that I am demonstrating a commitment to Rotary ideals-furthering peace and cultural tolerance- through the work that I produce.” *Alissa Nicole Creamer*

As a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar Alissa Nicole Creamer got a close-up look at how people recover from the ravages of war. While studying documentary filmmaking in Spain she participated in a project supported by 60 Spanish Rotary Clubs to fund rehabilitation of child victims of land mine explosions. Nearly every day for three months Creamer visited with two Angolan children at a local hospital. She got to know their life stories and now she is telling their story to the world through a documentary film she is directing.

By sponsoring and hosting Ambassadorial Scholars, Rotarians give the world hope for the future.

Weekly Rotary Foundation Thoughts



51) This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about Health, Hunger and Humanity (3-H) Grants.

It is called the Paul Harris Memorial Road, a half mile long concrete walkway which helps the villagers of Nabapally, India keep from being isolated during the rainy season. It is also one of the many infrastructure projects supported by a Health, Hunger and Humanity (3-H) Grant that has brought prosperity to a rural corner of India. Sponsored by the Rotary Clubs of Calcutta Metropolitan, India and Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada the grant has supported schools, micro credit loans, wells, toilets, and a health clinic for several communities.

The road is not just a way out of isolation it is a road to a brighter future – thanks to Rotary.

52) This week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about Service Above Self.

Plagued by famine, the impoverished nation of Niger struggles to feed its citizens. But Rotarians like Ernie and Sally Montagne, of Arizona, USA, are helping to break this cycle of hunger and grinding poverty. During a planning trip to Niger on a Volunteer Service Grant, the Montagnes saw firsthand how The Rotary Foundation's humanitarian efforts are supporting sustainable projects there.

“The Rotary Foundation is our vehicle of choice to enable ordinary Rotarians to make a lasting difference in the lives of thousands of villagers in Africa.”

Ernie and Sally Montagne