

THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

Peace and Understanding

District 7450

There are 1.2 million Rotarians in 34,000 clubs doing good all over the world. This network of clubs makes up Rotary International. The donations of club members to The Rotary Foundation fund service projects to advance world understanding, goodwill and peace through the improvement of health, education, and the alleviation of poverty.

GLOBAL GRANTS

Rotary Foundation Matching Grant Awarded the Karitas Foundation's ALEM Project through Partnerships with Cuernavaca, Mexico Rotary Club and Local PMB Rotary Club

What started as a \$1000 donation turned into a \$17,000 matching grant from the Rotary Foundation. The Rotary Club of Cuernavaca, Mexico and the Paoli-Malvern-Berwyn (PMB) Rotary Club partnered to support the Karitas Foundations ALEM Project. With Districts 4180 (Mexico) and 7450 matching funds and donations from Media, Bryn Mawr and Greater West Chester Sunrise Rotary Clubs, the dream of ALEM became a reality.



ALEM (Autonomia, Libertad en Movimiento / Autonomy, Liberation Through Movement) is a workshop in Cuernavaca Mexico, where a now, highly trained team of persons with disabilities design, fabricate and repair specialty wheelchairs, recumbent tricycles, sports wheelchairs, and custom wheeled devices for children and adults with severe physical challenges. In Cuernavaca, there are a number of organizations that provide free wheelchairs to people with disabilities. But the terrain of the city is rugged and the wheelchairs inevitably break down within two years. People cannot afford to have their wheelchairs repaired. Until ALEM, there were no wheelchair repair services available. The grant subsidizes the repairs, charging clients only for labor, which is the much smaller portion of the repair cost. The grant also provides moneys to purchase a full inventory of repair parts, special equipment and a utility trailer which is used to transport equipment and ALEM team to other cities as part of an outreach program. This project is unique in that the disabled themselves are the workers in the wheelchair shop. ALEM is steadily growing toward sustainability and recently became an official worker/owner cooperative. "We already foresee reaching out to Rotary Clubs across Mexico to coordinate Wheelchair Repair Tours and hopefully train local teams to continue making repairs with our support," said Erik Friend, the project's director.

What was not anticipated as part of the project but has become its cornerstone is awareness in the local community that persons with disabilities are capable of working. In Mexico and in many Third World countries, persons with disabilities are consider less valued and rarely find work. ALEM is changing this attitude within the communities it touches. Recently a father came to ALEM to have his disabled son's wheelchair repaired. When he saw that the people repairing the wheelchair were themselves disabled, he started to weep. He said, "Now I know my son has a future."

As the Chair, Bonnie Korengel PDG, has commented: "I do believe the District Rotary Foundation Committee is the heart of Rotary - that's what makes it Rotary instead of lunch, breakfast or dinner with some acquaintances. We do try to make life better for both someone globally and locally. We do speak for those whose voices can't be heard, and it feels so good."

Wherever Rotary exists, its members are gathered in corporate and professional life and dispersed in society for the sake of promoting Peace through Service Above Self. Rotarians gather to receive instruction concerning the Objectives of Rotary; develop programs in support of the Rotary areas of focus; report the progress of their efforts; and to enjoy fellowship. Rotarians disperse to serve the community in the light of the Four Way Test, at work or at play, in private, or in the life of the world - a Test to emulate if Democracy is to prevail. A Rotarian's daily action in the world and the quality of their relationships with others is the overall objective of Rotary

POLIO PLUS

Dong Kurn Lee, 2013-2014 Chairman of The Rotary Foundation, has announced at the 104th Annual Convention in Lisbon Portugal that Polio is the number one priority for TRF this year and until we eradicate Polio. The cost to eradicate Polio by 2018 is estimated at \$5.5B, and he recognized we still have a \$1.5B budget shortfall. A Global Vaccine Summit was held in Abu Dhabi this April with a specific focus and contributions towards Afghanistan and Pakistan.

A new partnership was announced at the Convention between TRF and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation called "End Polio Now - Make History Today". The Gates Foundation will match 2:1 all money raised by Rotary through the year 2018!

Bronwyn Martin AG arranged for Rotary Night at the Union - September 14, 2013 with the help of Jane Williams. This is an annual event specifically to raise money for Polio Plus.

Islamic militants try to block inoculation campaigns by portraying them as a conspiracy to sterilize people and reduce the world's Muslim population. Over the past year *i.e.* 2013, nearly 20 health workers from the anti-polio campaign have been killed *in Pakistan*. <http://tinyurl.com/kcx7mle>

SCHOLARSHIPS and PEACE FELLOWSHIPS

Amanda Rahi was approved May 24, 2013 by TRF as the first Global Scholar from our District. She is studying Sustainable Economic and Community Development at United Nations Chartered Universidad de la Paz in Costa Rica.

Jenna Frome has been endorsed by the committee for the Peace Fellowship leading to a Masters Degree and two candidates have been endorsed by the committee for the Certificate Program in Peace Studies - Philadelphia Police Lieutenant LaMonte Adams and Assistant District Attorney Erin Boyle.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING TEAM

Vocational Training Teams, VTT, has replaced the Group Study Exchange under Future Vision. The VTT is supported by a Global Grant. Govinda Malya is currently organizing the committee to review several potential projects. A VTT Team will now be composed of possibly 4 professionals in a particular field of expertise with a focus in the six Areas of Focus.

Joseph Hetherington
Editor

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Secretary Joseph Hetherington
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Awards Frank Hollick
Endowment Fund Bronwyn Martin AG
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Scholarships James Moore
Vocational Training Team Govinda Malya

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District Rotary Foundation Meeting - August 22, 2013





The Rotary Foundation Areas of Focus

TRF MISSION	The mission of the Rotary Foundation is to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill and <i>peace</i> through the improvement of <i>health</i>, the support of <i>education</i>, and the <i>alleviation of poverty</i>.					
						
AREAS OF FOCUS*	Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution	Disease Prevention and Treatment	Water and Sanitation	Maternal and Child Health	Basic Education and Literacy	Economic and Community Development
STATEMENT OF PURPOSE	The Rotary Foundation promotes the practice of peace and conflict prevention/resolution by:	The Rotary Foundation reduces the causes and effects of disease by:	The Rotary Foundation ensures that people have sustainable access to water and sanitation by:	The Rotary Foundation improves the lives of mothers and their children by:	The Rotary Foundation promotes education and literacy for all by:	The Rotary Foundation invests in people to create measurable and enduring economic improvement in their lives and communities by:
GOALS	<p>Strengthening local peace efforts</p> <p>Training local leaders to prevent and mediate conflict</p> <p>Supporting long-term peace building in areas affected by conflict</p> <p>Assisting vulnerable populations affected by conflict, particularly children and youth</p> <p>Supporting studies related to peace and conflict resolution</p>	<p>Improving the capacity of local health care professionals</p> <p>Combating the spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other major diseases</p> <p>Enhancing the health infrastructure of local communities</p> <p>Educating and mobilizing communities to help prevent the spread of major diseases</p> <p>Supporting studies related to disease prevention and treatment</p>	<p>Increasing equitable community access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation</p> <p>Strengthening the ability of communities to develop and maintain sustainable water and sanitation systems</p> <p>Educating communities about safe water, sanitation, and hygiene</p> <p>Supporting studies related to water and sanitation</p>	<p>Reducing the mortality rate for children under the age of five</p> <p>Reducing the maternal mortality rate</p> <p>Improving access to essential medical services and trained health care providers for mothers and their children</p> <p>Supporting studies related to maternal and child health</p>	<p>Ensuring that children have access to quality basic education</p> <p>Reducing gender disparity in education</p> <p>Increasing adult literacy</p> <p>Strengthening the capacity of communities to support basic education and literacy</p> <p>Supporting studies related to basic education and literacy</p>	<p>Strengthening the development of local entrepreneurs and community leaders, particularly women, in impoverished communities</p> <p>Developing opportunities for decent and productive work, particularly for youth</p> <p>Building the capacity of local organizations and community networks to support economic development</p> <p>Supporting studies related to economic and community development</p>

*Under the Future Vision Plan, the areas of focus relate directly to global grants.