

THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

District 7450
Peace and Understanding

SUMMER 2014

GLOBAL AND DISTRICT GRANTS

Vasanth Prabhu

From: The Weekly Bulletin of the
Rotary Club of Mangalore
July 31, 2014



An inconspicuous man in a light blue shirt with a rotary logo on it. At first glance, you could thus describe our speaker for the day. A misleading description, we were to discover, because his words and deeds were indeed extraordinary. The meeting commenced with a prayer from the Holy Quran by Rtn. Umar Farook. The meeting happened to be on the 27th day of Ramzan a day when our Muslim brethren have an Iftar with family.

The speaker Rtn. Vasanth Prabhu, Member, RC Central Chester county, USA was introduced by Rtn. Prakash Kalbavi. He informed all that earlier in the day Rtn. Prabhu had visited the Neermarga School and contributed Rs.11,000 towards sports jackets for the students.

The unassuming Rtn. Prabhu began with why he associated himself with Rotary. He said that it was an organization that used all the funds that it allotted to community service most efficiently. He spoke on how Rotarians instantly hit it off when they met in different parts of the world. He narrated a story on how he met an Egyptian Rotarian when in Cairo. After the Cairo club meeting was held at the Hilton, the gentleman asked him about matching grants and this led to two projects in Egypt. He also spoke on how in Peshawar, Pakistan he helped a Christian school procure security equipment. This was a project planned by a Pakistani Muslim Rotarian, for a Christian school and the grant was procured by a Hindu Rotarian from the US. The lack of discrimination on the basis of caste and creed in Rotary appealed immensely to Rotarian Prabhu.

There is a destiny that makes us brothers:
None goes his way alone:
All that we send into the lives of others
Comes back into our own.

I care not what his temples or his creeds,
One thing holds firm and fast
That into his fateful heap of days and deeds
The soul of man is cast.

Edwin Markham

A US Rotarian once questioned the funding of foreign projects when there were pockets of poverty in the US itself. To this Rtn. Prabhu pointed out that 3 projects in the US were being given matching grants by clubs from Tamil Nadu, Goa & Brazil.

He had participated in 12 projects in Ecuador. Once on a flight from Philadelphia to Miami He struck a conversation with an Ecuadorian businessman. The businessman on hearing of the work done by Rotary in Ecuador decided to contribute two dental chairs in Puyo. The gentleman and his wife were chief guests for the project inaugural.

Another interesting nugget was how he came across a school in Ecuador named after our national poet. It was the 'Escuela de Rabindranath Tagore' set up in 1923 by an admirer of Tagore. Rtn. Prabhu finding the school in a pitiable state renovated the classrooms. He and a friend from the US contributed \$2000 towards the effort.

He also spoke of how he was part of a Rotary project which set up a carpet manufacturing center in Kandahar, Afghanistan. They trained 120 locals in carpet weaving. The factory gave employment to the weavers and also helped local entrepreneurs. This gave some relief to the chronic unemployment (as high as 60%) in the area.

After the talk the floor was laid open for questions. Rtn. Devdas Kamath asked how Rtn Prabhu could generate funds for his projects to which Rtn. Prabhu said that he made the donors enthusiastic by narrating stories of the interesting projects he had been part of. Rtn. Prakash Kalbavi asked him how we could get overseas grants for our projects to which he said that the project details could be posted on the RI website to solicit grants. He spoke of how with the help of Dr. Ramdas M Pai he had conducted cataract surgery camps in Manipal. He mentioned how he procured intraocular lenses from 3M USA and Lucknow for the patients and how surgeries were carried out for nominal charges. Rtn. M.R. Prabhu asked him why he travelled to places off the beaten track like Ecuador. To this Rtn. Vasanth said that traveling to Ecuador on projects was also an opportunity to explore different parts of the country like the Galapagos Islands that lay close to it.

An understanding of Rotary and its **FOURTH OBJECTIVE** - *The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.* - is evident to those familiar with Rotary's history concerning the United Nations and their Partners <https://www.rotary.org/en/partners>

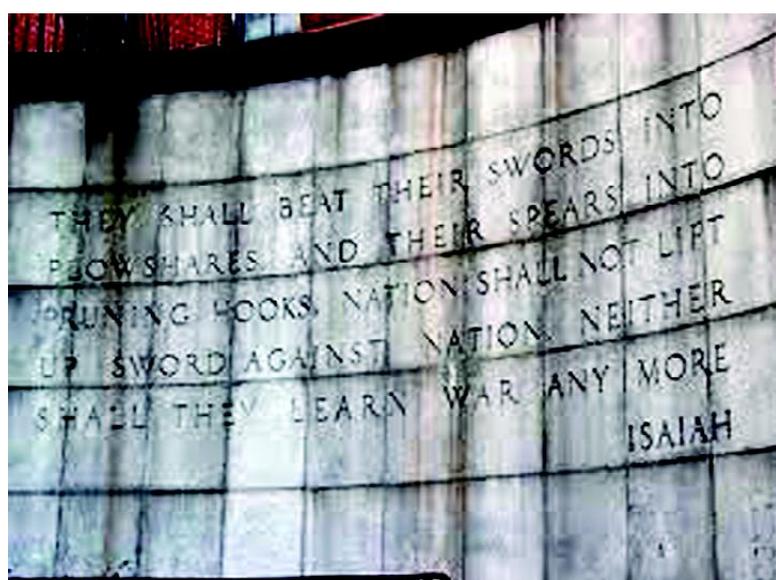
Rotary and the United Nations have a long history of working together and sharing similar visions for a more peaceful world.

In 1942, Rotary clubs from 21 nations organized a conference in London to develop a vision for advancing education, science, and culture after World War II. That event was a precursor to UNESCO. In 1945, 49 Rotarians went to San Francisco to help draft the UN Charter. Rotary and the UN have been close partners ever since, a relationship that's apparent through PolioPlus and work with UN agencies.

“The invitation to Rotary International to participate in the United Nations Conference as consultant to the United States delegation was not merely a gesture of good will and respect toward a great organization. It was a simple recognition of the practical part Rotary's members have played and will continue to play in the development of understanding among nations. The representatives of Rotary were needed at San Francisco and, as you well know, they made a considerable contribution to the Charter itself, and particularly to the framing of provisions for the Economic and Social Council.”



“Let Us Beat Swords Into Ploughshares” statue at UN



“Isaiah Wall” Ralph Bunche Park across 1st Ave from the UN

Rotary currently holds the highest consultative status offered to a nongovernmental organization by the UN's Economic and Social Council, which oversees many specialized UN agencies. Rotary maintains and furthers its relationship with a number of UN bodies, programs, commissions, and agencies through its representative network. This network consists of RI representatives to the United Nations and other organizations.

From: “Rotary International UN Days”
You are cordially invited to attend
Rotary Day at the United Nations on
Saturday, 1 November 2014.
<http://riunday.org/>

We're Not in This Alone!

I think it's important for us Rotarians to understand that we have some mighty powerful partners working with us to eradicate polio. Because even though the effort started in 1979 as a Rotary district-wide project in the Philippines, it now involves some of the most influential health organizations in the world with the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI). GPEI is a public-private partnership led by national governments and spearheaded by the World Health Organization (WHO), Rotary International, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Our goal is to eradicate polio worldwide and we have achieved a 99% success rate. But as is the case with any race, it's always the last few miles that prove to be the most challenging. **BUT WE'RE THIS CLOSE!!**



At a glance: The Global Polio Eradication Initiative

4 spearheading partners
200 countries involved
20 million volunteers
Over 2.5 billion children immunized
US\$ 10 billion international investment (\$2.5 from Rotary)
Goal: a polio-free world

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative is working to make sure no child will ever again know the crippling effects of Polio.

Here are some facts and figures (as of 8/27/14) on the status of polio eradication.

Total Cases	Year-to-date 2014	Year-to-date 2013	Total-in 2013
- in endemic countries	149	214	416
- in non-endemic countries	131	72	160
	18	142	256

- Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria continue to be the countries where polio is still endemic.
- On March 27, the WHO certified the 11 country Southeast Asia region (more than 25% of the world's population) polio free. This is a true milestone since just five years ago India represented nearly half of all polio cases worldwide.
- New vaccines, techniques, tools and strategies are constantly being developed and re-worked to identify and fight the disease such as border crossing immunization stations, aggressive awareness campaigns in Muslim countries about the safety of the Islam-approved drops, new waste water testing systems, simplified diagnostic tests to find the virus in people.
- Nigeria has seen an 85% decrease in cases to date in 2014 compared to 2013. The country is hoping to start the 3-year cycle to being declared polio-free by the end of 2014.
- Pakistan, and particularly in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), continues to be the hot spot of infections with 117 infections as opposed to 25 last year at this time. Challenges there include political unrest with significant migrations of peoples from one area to another, parents' refusals to allow their children to be immunized, murders of health care workers, threats to the parents who do allow immunizations, lack of a cohesive commitment from the government to eradicate polio. However, on the brighter side, great pressure from the international community on Pakistan and the support of the army in protecting the immunization teams may contribute to changing the picture there in the next few months.

World Polio Day

THE ARROW AND THE SONG

I shot an arrow into the air,
It fell to earth, I knew not where;
For, so swiftly it flew, the sight
Could not follow it in its flight.

I breathed a song into the air,
It fell to earth, I knew not where;
For who has sight so keen and strong,
That it can follow the flight of song?

Long, long afterward, in an oak
I found the arrow, still unbroke;
And the song, from beginning to end,
I found again in the heart of a friend.

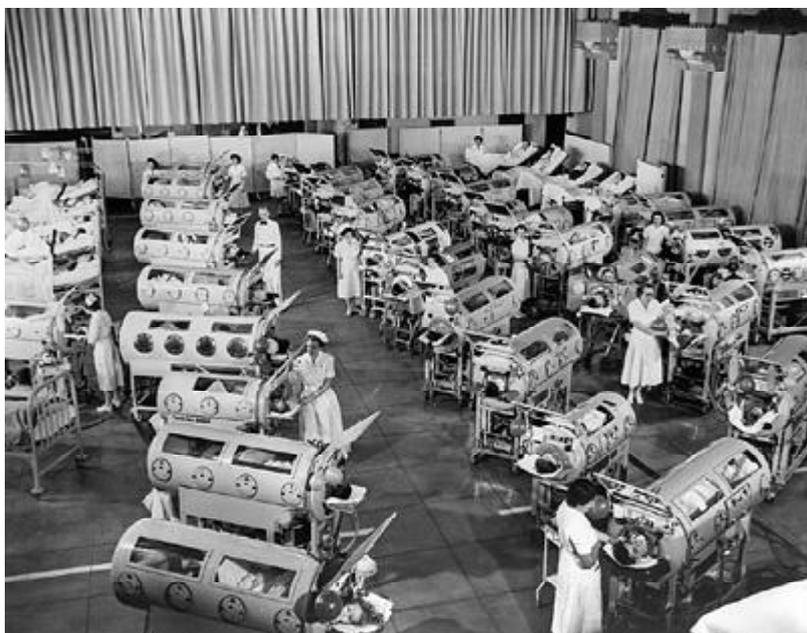
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Rotary Clubs should take the opportunity in October to “toot their own horn” and celebrate October 24, 2014, World Polio Day. This also represents an opportunity to reach out to your community and ask for support. After all, this effort is a worldwide program which when completed will be only the second disease ever eradicated from the face of the earth (the first being smallpox). Let your community know what great work you are doing. It’s easy to do with a press release in your local community paper. Just go to the RI website, download the already-prepared press release, [https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/document/861 - 3-Feb-2014](https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/document/861-3-Feb-2014) and fill in the information relating to your community. October 24 also presents a great opportunity to hold a fund-raiser just for PolioPlus in your community.

"Going forward, the Gates Foundation will match two-to-one, up to US\$35 million per year, every dollar Rotary commits to reduce the funding shortfall for polio eradication through 2018," **END POLIO NOW!**

Rotary and Polio

Rotarian Edgar Allen founded a hospital in Elyria, Ohio, after his son's death in a streetcar accident in May 1907. Soon after, Allen dedicated his life to creating community-based services for children with disabilities, recruiting Rotarians to create a network of programs that would become Easter Seals. Since the 1920s, Rotary clubs have worked with local Easter Seals organizations as volunteers and event sponsors, and by offering program support through direct grants and gifts.



<http://www.easterseals.com/who-we-are/partners/rotary.html>

Camp Rotary is owned by the Rotary Club of Fredericton and operated by Easter Seals NB.

<http://www.camprotary.ca/index.php/en/page/home>

PER CAPITA LEADERS -ANNUAL FUND - 2013-2014 PROGRAM YEAR

Bonnie Korengel - District Rotary Foundation Chair

Our District has raised \$167, 903 for the Annual Fund ---2013-2014.
CONGRATULATIONS to the clubs taking the lead in the Annual Fund!

The benchmark is \$100 per member. Eight clubs surpassed that benchmark in 2013-2014 by a remarkable margin! Hats off to these amazing clubs:

Westtown-Goshen	\$431.62 per capita
Cheltenham-Rockledge	\$337.00 per capita
Wayne	\$296.47 per capita
Central Chester County	\$280.38 per capita
Upper Darby-Lansdowne	\$271.13 per capita
Upper Main Line	\$247.76 per capita
Paoli-Malvern-Berwyn	\$231.63 per capita
Chestnut Hill	\$208.12 per capita

Officers

District Governor	Doug Blazey DG
Chairman	Bonnie Korengel PDG
Secretary	Joseph Hetherington
Treasurer	Robert Merkle

Area Coordinators

1	Ward McMasters wvmcm@comcast.net
7	Louise Burroughs lvitiello@csmillc.com
9	Andy Jenkins deanandy2@hotmail.com

Sub-Committees

	Chair
Alumni	John Washington
Annual Giving	Rich Heron
Paul Harris Society Coord.	Dennis Wallace
Endowment Fund	Bronwyn Martin
Grants	Vasanth Prabhu
Polio Plus	Jane Williams
Scholarships	James Moore
Vocational Training Team	Govinda Malya

Joseph Hetherington
Editor

September 20th 2014, is the 4th annual Kick Polio off the Planet event for district 7450, raising money for our district's **End Polio Now** initiatives and an event organized by District 7450's Polio event subcommittee - chaired by Bronwyn Martin. This year's district 7450 Rotary Polio Day event

has some new offerings: team scarves for sale, a BBQ, the terrific tail gate party hosted by the Chester Rotary Club, recognition on the pitch, and a jumbotron ad on polio. We will have 4 ea 10'x10' tents provided to us by the Philadelphia Union on the grassy area where we hold our tailgate party

