

# THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

## Jim Lester's Periodic Presentations

**10/29/07**

### **YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ROTARY FOUNDATION MAKE A PROFOUND DIFFERENCE IN HELPING THE POOR AROUND THE WORLD.**

Rotary districts in Colombia and the U.S. have partnered to receive a Rotary Foundation Grant aimed at implementing an HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention campaign in Colombian high schools around Bogota . Through the use of guided mural exhibitions, over 200,000 students were reached with life-saving messages about HIV/AIDS. Separately, in an effort to meet the needs of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS, Rotary clubs in Ethiopia and Spokane Valley-Sunrise, USA obtained a Matching Grant to help provide a used van, clothing, food, furniture, a computer and office supplies to an orphanage serving AIDS orphans in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

**5/7/07**

### **A RECENT ROTARY FOUNDATION GRANT HAS CHANGED AND SAVED LIVES IN JAMAICA**

*5/7/07 by Jim Lester-* This grant provided life-saving medical equipment to a hospital for children (the only children's hospital in the English-speaking Caribbean), and the Newborn Special Care unit at the University Hospital of the West Indies, which deals with premature newborn babies and babies with special medical needs. Doctors and nurses were trained to use the new equipment. In addition to providing machinery and equipment, this project refurbished the emergency wing the Bustamante Hospital. Approximately 500 patients benefit from this project daily. Many lives, namely those of children, will be saved as a result of this project and contributions to the Annual Programs Fund..

Your Rotary Foundation contributions fund projects like this around the world.

**3/5/07**

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

Your Rotary Foundation contributions provide funds for water, clothing, food, drugs, toilets and farming implements to a leper colony in Nigeria Africa. Over 1,000 people benefited from this project. The Rotarians sponsoring the project designed, supervised and kept the project on target, gaining both local and international attention. As a result of this project, the leper community will have access to basic amenities after many years of neglect. Dignity has been restored to the lives of those individuals living in the leper colony.

I hope you feel as I do, that your efforts have brought dignity to someone's life?

**12/04/06**

Jim Lester offered a **Rotary Foundation Thought** about a Matching Grant project that took place in Israel. This grant provided armchair-beds for Palestinian mothers to be close to their children recovering from heart operations at the Wolfson Medical Center in Tel Aviv. Without these armchair-beds, mothers would not have been able to be at their children's side as they recovered. These armchair-beds, which are in constant use, have provided a saving grace for both mothers and children going through a very difficult time in their lives.

If you found yourself in a similar situation, wouldn't you be grateful for the provision of such amenities? If you are contributing to the foundation, I'm sure you are pleased that your money is being used for these worthwhile payments.

**11/13/06**

Health, Hunger and Humanity Grants In Romania orphaned and all children are consuming donated eggs, milk, veal, and poultry partly because of a US\$175,000 grant from the Foundation that benefited local farmers. The farmers are using the grant to buy everything from animal feed to packaging materials to help to increase their productivity. But there's one stipulation: They have to donate a portion is of their products to children's hospitals, orphanages, and schools for people with disabilities The \$175,000 was issued as a Health, Hunger and Humanity (3-H) Grant. These grants fund large, international, grassroots projects to improve health, alleviate hunger, or otherwise increase quality of life. Since 1978, the Foundation has awarded over 330 of the grants, totaling more than \$88 million for projects in 74 countries.

**10/31/06**

The Rotary Foundation is the philanthropic arm of Rotary. Most of the Foundation projects arc in countries and not in the United States. As you would expect, there are 2 components to the foundation: fund - raising and secondly, paying for the philanthropic projects around the world.

Our club has been a long history of generously contributing to the Foundation. Our club has given over \$55,000 to the Foundation. We have over a third of our members who have given over \$1000 and are Paul Harris Fellows. They have a gold star on their name badge. They obviously feel the projects funded by the Foundation arc worthy of their financial support.

We have almost half of our members contributing annually to the Foundation. Most of them are contributing \$50 or \$25 quarterly which is on their quarterly club invoice. Last year our club members contributed \$2850 which averages \$77 per member

which is very good when compared to most clubs.

The Rotary Foundation has been a tremendous success over the past few years. At the end of the fiscal year 2003, our Foundation ranked 96<sup>th</sup> out of the top 400 most successful U. S. charities by the Chronicle of Philanthropy, a prestigious publication. This was the first time our Foundation has been included in the top 100. That year, we raised over US\$133 million, largely due to the Polio Eradication effort. The past two years, the Rotary Foundation has set new giving records for the Annual Programs Fund, increasing from US \$55 million in 2002-2003, to nearly US\$65 million in 2004-2005. This year's annual giving goal of \$105 million is within reach.

Group study team from the Netherlands was scheduled to visit a district in Indonesia shortly after the tsunami disaster of December 2004. The GSE team members were aware of the damage that had occurred in their host district and embarked on a misstep: to return home, project that would benefit tsunami victims. During their visit, they discovered that many Indonesian were no longer able to support their studies because they had lost homes and families in the tsunami. The GSE team leader launched the appeal to Dutch Rotary Clubs who, through the coordination of the Rotary Club of Bandung in Indonesia, were able to identify deserving Indonesian students that needed support to complete their study programs.

The project will ensure that many students from tsunami-stricken West Java have the resources necessary to realize their dream of obtaining a university degree.

The foundation gives scholarships to students studying Worldwide Peace. A member of the first class of Peace Fellows and a native Lithuanian now works as a domestic policy advisor to the Republic of Lithuanian President. His responsibilities include analyzing trends and developments in the country's political system. Some of the main issues and projects he has tackled are political corruption, the establishment of ethical standards, and the promotion of a civic and open society.

He is just one example of how the Rotary Peace Fellows can shape policy and influence decision-making at an international level.

I hope that each of you who are contributing to the Foundation will feel your contributions are well spent and you are proud of your help to these worthwhile causes.

To those of you who are not contributing to the foundation, I hope you will consider making a quarterly contribution. I will be contacting many of you.