

2008-09 Presidential Emphases and Citation

Reduce Child Mortality through Water, Literacy, Health and Hunger

Recommended Session Format for 2008-09 Presidential Emphases and Citation

- Panel discussion followed by workshops on each emphasis

Water Management

Background

- 1.5 million children die from lack of access to safe water every year.
- Thousands of children die every day from diarrhea and other water sanitation and hygiene-related diseases.
- Over 90 percent of deaths due to unsafe water and sanitation in the developing world occur in children under 5 years old.
- More than 1 billion people use unsafe drinking water sources.
- 2.6 billion people (40 percent of the world's population) lack basic sanitation facilities.
- People who don't have access to clean water and education are more likely to lack proper nutrition and healthcare.
- More than 6000 people die each day and 2.2 million people die each year from disease associated with poor water and sanitary conditions.
- Poor water conditions can negatively affect the use of water for drinking, commerce and transportation.

Recommended Action

- Participate in water projects during the 2008-09 Rotary year, whether it involves supporting the local community, or an international community in need.
- Participate in projects that address health concerns caused by poor water conditions.

- Collaborate with a community's resources, such as community groups or businesses as well as other organizations that share a similar mission of improving water conditions.
- Partner with local communities to develop a source for safe water and a sanitation system.

Resources

- UNICEF (United Nations Children's Emergency Fund) at www.unicef.org
- Water Resource Group
- [RI President's web page](#) at www.rotary.org
- RI Programs staff
- Service and Fellowship web page at www.rotary.org.
- ProjectLINK, a searchable database that links Rotary clubs needing project assistance with clubs in other countries.

Literacy

Background

- More than 80 million school-age children are not attending classes.
- Women and girls account for more than 64 percent of all illiterate people in the world.
- Approximately 800 million people over the age of 15 do not have the literacy skills needed to hold a job or obtain a better one.
- Ninety-eight percent of the world's illiterate population is in developing countries.
- Fifty percent of the world's illiterate people live in India and China.
- More than 50 percent of the population of Africa is illiterate.

- Those that are illiterate and uneducated are not able to live independently and can be vulnerable to exploitation by others.

Recommended Action

- Conduct a project that expands and improves early childhood literacy and education programs for both boys and girls
- Conduct a literacy project that improves the ability of teachers.
- Assess a community's literacy needs by contacting people who are qualified to discuss them (e.g. educators, government officials, and social workers) and use the findings to develop a project.
- Support literacy projects in local communities or abroad.
- Promote literacy awareness.
- Recognize a community member for achievements in literacy.
- Create a short-term campaign that offers incentives to children for reading.

Resources

- UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) at www.unesco.org
- Literacy Resource Group
- [RI President's web page](#) at www.rotary.org
- Menu of Service Opportunities at www.rotary.org
- Rotary Community Corps
- The Rotary Volunteers program
- RI Programs staff
- Service and Fellowship web page at www.rotary.org

- Group Study Exchange (GSE) participants
- ProjectLINK, a searchable database that links Rotary clubs needing project assistance with clubs in other countries.

Health and Hunger Concerns

Background

- While global infant mortality rates have fallen by two-thirds since 1950, in some developing countries mortality rates for children under age five are more than 50 times higher than in the industrialized world.
- Malnutrition accounts for nearly 1 million child deaths.
- More than 50 million women give birth without the assistance of a skilled medical professional.
- More than 70 percent of all child deaths are caused by diarrhea, malaria, neonatal infection, pneumonia, preterm delivery, or lack of oxygen at birth.
- Children who have lost their mothers are up to 10 times more likely to die prematurely.
- In developing countries, the major killers remain infectious diseases, including respiratory illnesses, tuberculosis, and malaria, which are often associated with poverty and unhealthy environments.
- Some 840 million people — one out of every seven worldwide — are malnourished.
- An estimated 25,000 people die each day as a result of chronic hunger problems.

Recommended Action

- Establish a hot lunch program for disadvantaged children at a local school.
- Establish a medical clinic using donated equipment and supplies, and provide a trained birth attendant.

- Deliver mosquito nets, rehydration salts, vitamins, and vaccines to families in affected areas.
- Hold an immunization drive or a health fair that provides information on health and screening services, in collaboration with the local health department.
- Organize continuing education opportunities for local health professionals.
- Locate areas needing medical assistance and recruit fellow Rotarians with medical expertise to visit the area and provide their services at no charge.
- Make available appropriate technology tools, expertise, and training to farmers to help increase their harvests, and encourage them to assist neighboring farmers.
- Provide vegetable seeds and training to impoverished families to enable them to raise food in their own gardens.

Resources

- World Health Organization (WHO) at www.who.org
- Health and Hunger Resource Group
- [RI President's web page](#) at www.rotary.org
- RI Programs staff
- Service and Fellowship web page at www.rotary.org
- ProjectLINK, a searchable database that links Rotary clubs needing project assistance with clubs in other countries.

2008-09 Presidential Citation

Background

- President-elect Lee's citation program encourages Rotarians to use the theme, Make Dreams Real, to ensure that clubs are making a difference in the world.

It is based on the Four Avenues of Service and membership growth and provides a framework for a healthy, vibrant club.

- The citation focuses on participation, planning, and quality service through the following areas, with a focus on reducing child mortality:
- Membership
- Club Service
- Vocational Service
- Community Service
- International Service
- Rotaract and Interact clubs may also be recognized for undertaking worthy service activities that demonstrate how Rotary can Make Dreams Real.

Recommended Action

- Promote the Presidential Citation Program throughout the district.
- Encourage clubs to conduct projects that focus on reducing child mortality.
- Encourage clubs to complete the membership goal and one activity from each of the six categories listed in the 2008-09 Presidential Citation Brochure between 1 July 2008 and 31 March 2009.

Resources

- [2008-09 Presidential Citation Brochure](#)
- [RI President web page](#) at www.rotary.org
- RI Programs staff
- Service and Fellowship web page at www.rotary.org