

OUR FOUNDATION



ISSUE 18

OCTOBER 15, 2005



Frank Devlyn
Chairman of the Trustees
2005-2006

From the Chairman

Did you know that 20 percent of Rotary clubs around the world have at least one GSE program alumnus within

their member-

ship ranks? GSE is a great way to attract young, motivated Rotary Club member candidates with international experience. As we celebrate four decades of professional development, international understanding, and cross-cultural friendships established through this educational program, I urge you to think of creative ways to engage your district in Group Study Exchange, such as a special-focus or univocational GSE team.

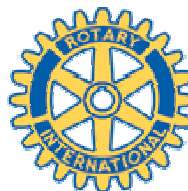
Time and time again, we see that GSE teams involved in activities relevant to the larger community achieve the greatest professional exposure and the

most rewarding Rotary service experience.

Every district has the opportunity to design a Group Study Exchange program that will address local or international needs. The 40th anniversary of Group Study Exchange in 2005-06 is the perfect time to *Create Awareness* about developing the next generation of global-minded professionals. This year, I encourage you to reflect on your district's service goals and implement a GSE team that will *Take Action* to serve your community and the Rotary world.

**GSE is a great way
to attract
young,
motivated
Rotary Club
member
candidates**

Frank Devlyn
The Rotary Foundation,
Chair 2005-06
PRID 2000-01



SERVICE Above Self

Readers' Comments

A COURSE OF ACTION

If we had a coordinated Disaster Plan from RI/TRF there would be "no hesitancy, no confusion, no chaos, there would be just immediate action and result."

A Disaster Plan released immediately would improve coordination. The reaction to Katrina was plagued by a major misunderstanding: Rotarians wanting to work with Rotarians did not know which way to turn.

Rotarians should not have to search for solutions and RI/TRF does not need to take charge. What is needed is some form of communication reaching as many Rotarians as possible that advises "a course of action."

Dick Foster, D5470 DRFC Chair

It would be greatly appreciated if you stopped referring to the Rotary Foundation as OUR Foundation. It is not. Decisions at the foundation are made WITHOUT the input of Rotarians. Case in point, the recent decision by the Rotary Foundation to suspend the volunteer grants programs and change the matching grants program so that RI will only match \$5,000 or more fails the 4 Way Test on all levels.

As a former Rotary Volunteer and President of my club, I was never asked to seek input from my club. I asked our District Governor if he knew about the changes. He did not. Stop calling it Our Foundation. It is not the Truth.

Daniel A. Weiss,
Rotary Club of Ann Arbor North

**SHARE YOUR SUGGESTIONS,
COMMENTS AND SUCCESS STORIES
WITH YOUR RRFC COLLEAGUES.**

WRITE: TO THE EDITOR AT:
EBLENDER@AOL.COM

Rotary's global presence should ensure a faster response time than other, more experienced organizations. And other Rotary-based initiatives, such as ShelterBox, have proven that we can "compete" effectively and efficiently when we put our minds and hearts into it. We don't want to reinvent the wheel; rather, Rotarians properly trained and effectively located could be of invaluable assistance to other first-response and specialist organizations, such as the Red Cross and Médecins-sans-frontières, especially when disaster strikes somewhere where we are and they are not, if you know what I mean.

The will and resources to be a part of such a world-wide Rotary-based program may not be for every Rotarian, but a focus group, not unlike a Rotary Vocational Fellowship, could bring together and arrange for the proper training of individuals willing to make the commitment to serve humanity in this way. Natural disasters, whether climatic catastrophes or pandemic diseases, can best be mitigated by rapid response by trained personnel with access to the proper tools and equipment.

RIDE Örsçelik Balkan's suggestion of the need for a new organization within Rotary International is an idea whose time has come. And your call for a "White Paper" on the subject endorsed by the RI directors and TRF trustees is the correct first step, in my opinion. Among the vast ranks of Rotarians we must surely already possess the skill sets and experience in these matters to take the lead in formulating a plan to put this initiative in motion now, while our zeal is at its zenith.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer my thoughts on this important topic.

Yours sincerely in Rotary service, Bill Hodges, PDG

A TRF THANK YOU NOTE...

Keith,

Thanks to the efforts – and donations -- of pioneering, visionary Rotarians like YOU, humanity is on a path to cut child mortality in half by 2015, perhaps sooner. Please take a minute to appreciate what we in Rotary can add.

This is the CHARTER YEAR for our district's Paul Harris Society (PHS): \$1000 / year, every year to TRF. We already have a few members. Participation in the PHS for a few years may make becoming a Major Donor - or moving up to the next level – easier and quicker over the course of years.

- YOU ARE THE KEY GROUP.
- YOU HAVE LED US ALL “OUT LOUD” FOR SO MANY YEARS.
- YOUR PARTICIPATION SETS THE EXAMPLE IN THIS, TOO, FOR ROTARIANS OF ALL CLUBS.
- YOUR ACTIONS are just as important as your money.

We deeply appreciate all you have done for all these many years. The impacts of your efforts set the model for the world. On Friday the news item appeared that the governments of the world are raising an additional \$4 BILLION to assure money is in place to pay for future polio, measles and other vaccines, including the new pneumonia, rotavirus (causes diarrhea) and other vaccines about to be rolled out. EACH additional vaccine will save hundreds of thousands of lives every year. Measles killed 800,000 children a year in 2001. In 2005 the death toll is less than half that. And it is en route to Zero. Thanks to The Rotary Model.

Thanks to the efforts of pioneering, visionary Rotarians like YOU, humanity is on a path to cut child mortality in half by 2015, perhaps more and probably sooner.

With ongoing contributions like yours, who knows what we can accomplish? Rotarians make a difference, I would say, THE difference.

Drake Zimmerman JD CFA
DRFC CHAIR



What Paul Harris Said...

“What Rotary will be one hundred years hence, none living can imagine. There is nothing impossible to Rotary now.”

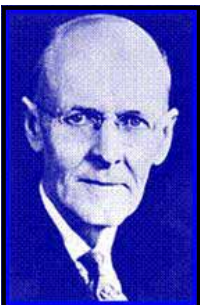
**Paul P. Harris
THE ROTARIAN,
February 1915**

NOVEMBER IS FOUNDATION MONTH

Arch C. Klumph (RI President 1916-17) wrote these words for the Rotarian Magazine in January 1935. *“.. there are tens of thousands of Rotarians who will look upon this opportunity (Building the Rotary Foundation) as a real privilege, men who feel that Rotary has done much for them, who sincerely believe in its purposes and objects.*

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?”

What other organization encourages its contributors to plan, partner and participate in its projects through its Foundation? Our Rotary Foundation does that and helps Rotarians in their quest to achieve world understanding and peace through its educational, cultural and humanitarian programs.



A "WHAT PAUL HARRIS SAID" message will be sent (free-of-charge) to you and to whoever you wish. Please register for this free service by sending an e-mail to: Chairman@RotaryHistoryFellowship.org

DISASTER RELIEF -

the response of Rotarians from around the world..

Thousands Sheltered and Helped by Rotarian Effort

Hurricane Katrina has certainly been one of the most devastating storms to hit the US. Most of us are probably tired of all the news of doom and gloom, finger pointing and blame. *If there is one positive element relating to the disaster, it may be the response of Rotarians all around the world.*

Rotarians from several districts and clubs are diligently working to provide refugees with shelter from the storm, as they have been since Hurricane Katrina made landfall on 29 August.

To date, their efforts have provided emergency accommodation for up to 24,000 survivors via 1,200 ShelterBoxes - containing tents and necessary equipment -- delivered throughout the U.S. Gulf Coast. "This is the first time [ShelterBoxes] are needed in the U.S. since there's standing water in a whole city," said Jerry Hearn, a past District Governor of District 6960 and active member of Rotary Club of Lakewood Ranch, Florida, where ShelterBox is an ongoing community service project. Hearn's district was hit hard by Hurricane Charlie in 2004. "But it was nothing to this scale; we could stay in our homes," he said. By the way, The Rotary Club of Lakewood Ranch, Florida, USA, is only four years old. Due to the mass homelessness caused by Katrina, boxes were altered to accommodate two tents that house 10 people each. "We omitted 10 sleeping bags because the Salvation Army had enough cots for everyone," Hearn said.

The distribution of Shelter Boxes is one of the main Rotarian relief efforts for Katrina at this time, and it's being coordinated throughout the entire United States. Rotarians are working closely with agencies such as the Red Cross and Salvation Army. "We continue to let them know what we have," Hearn explained. "We don't just drop [the boxes] off." Whether it's identifying campgrounds or other suitable places to set up tents or teaching the community how to best construct their ShelterBox villages, Rotarians are on the ground and making a difference.

"I do believe we're getting a handle on the areas that were affected," said RI Director Bob Stuart, a member of the Rotary Club of Springfield, Illinois. "We are trying to reach all evacuees." According to Past District Governor Frank Bradshaw, a member of the Rotary Club of Lafayette South, Louisiana, 200 ShelterBoxes were taken to Katrina's ground zero in Gulfport, Mississippi. Lafayette and Lake Charles, Louisiana, were other early ShelterBox recipients.

The Houston Astrodome received 200 boxes, which were later distributed to areas such as Jackson, Mississippi, where there was a greater need for additional shelter. Atlanta, Georgia, is slated to receive 400 units for evacuees there. And Rotarians are working to determine how to get more ShelterBoxes to areas that remain destitute.

"Today it's the Delta south of New Orleans - there is very much need there," Hearn said. "In their recovery effort, they're where New Orleans was last week. The media was concentrating on New Orleans, and no one heard anything about these areas."

Whether managing logistics or delivering food to evacuees, Rotarians from District 5890 have been essential to the success of the Houston Astrodome relief efforts, according to



Continued on next page....

Disaster Relief *Continued...*



Coast Guard Lt. Joe Leonard Jr., area commander for Houston Shelter Operations. While media has reported on sub par Hurricane Katrina relief efforts, those working at the Astrodome have yet to receive such criticism. "I'm not hearing [negative reports] about what we're doing, and we're the largest mass-care shelter," Leonard said.

Leonard credits hardworking Rotarian volunteers for accomplishments at the Astrodome. "They are doing what needs to be done in our command center. They're playing the unsung support roles," Leonard said. "Even if it's putting tape down so we don't trip on phone cords."

To ensure 24-hour coverage, Rotarians have divided into three, 20-person shifts. "The theme is failure is not an option," District Governor-elect Suzi Howe said. "We brainstorm and communicate, and we come up with answers - there isn't any thing this group can't do."

Their problem-solving skills became apparent when a shortage of golf carts slowed progress in the packed Astrodome. "The Red Cross needed to get around, and there were chaplains with bad knees," Howe recalled. A Rotarian with a transportation background devised a plan that concentrated on more efficient coordination and refueling of existing vehicles.

Howe and other Rotarians are now working alongside The American Red Cross, local police, fire officials, and the Federal Emergency Management Association, lending much to the efforts. But with access to the Astrodome limited due to security concerns, Rotary's recognition by officials as a leading humanitarian relief organization has led to "Trusted Organization" status thanks to the assertiveness of a single Rotarian. Bill Allen traveled from Orlando, Florida, to oversee the delivery of ShelterBoxes to the Astrodome. "But the Red Cross wouldn't let me onto the premises, so I had to sneak into a parking lot and then into the command center," Allen admitted. The time that Allen spent at the Astrodome opened the doors to more Rotarians.

While waiting for all the red tape to be sorted out, Allen said, "I volunteered to help in any way I could, and pretty soon Lt. Leonard said, 'I could use three or four just like you.'" Allen told him that was one phone call away.

Allen contacted Anita Smallwood (wife of RRFC Andy), from the Rotary Club of Gulfway-Hobby Airport, Texas, and told her to send strong, aggressive, non-complaining Rotarians. The first to arrive was Howe, who Allen described as calm, polite, and collected. "I immediately knew it was OK to go home to my family." While the number of evacuees at the Astrodome is down to 4,600 from an initial 25,000, those in Houston must consider the long-range impact of Hurricane Katrina.

"Even when people leave our center, they'll still be in the community and that will affect the school and healthcare systems," Howe said. "We are working on a plan, and it will include the assistance of Rotarians throughout the world." Looking forward, Leonard knows he can turn to Rotary clubs in an emergency. "Hopefully we won't need to," he said. "But I would." There's no denying it. Rotary is living up to its goal of providing humanitarian aid . . . and you and I can take pride in being part of it.



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The Donor Advised Fund

In the newly formed Rotary Donor Advised Fund (DAF) the Rotarians "... will be using the money received to use in what Rotarians in the affected area are requesting."

I am sure that many of you want to help the Katrina Disaster Victims. *The USA Rotarians in the affected area have set up a Donor Advised Fund called the Katrina Relief Fund with The Rotary Foundation.*

I can assure you of the Good Stewardship that will be carried out by the Rotarians in the Rotary Zones that will be overseeing the good use of this Fund. Basically they will be using the money received to use in what Rotarians in the affected area are requesting. Rotarians in charge of this Katrina Disaster Relief Fund will partner with only reputable groups checked out previously.

Information on the Katrina Disaster Relief Fund can be found at www.rotary.org and at my personal website www.frankdevlyn.org and many others in The World of Rotary who will be attaching those links to their websites.

Rotarians are encouraged to inform the webmasters on their clubs / districts to put the above link and information on their respective websites.

Please Continue to Create Awareness & Take Action by Encouraging The Family of Rotary To Give Needed Personal Increased Donations to OUR ROTARY FOUNDATION

Your Amigo in Mexico City,

Frank Devlyn
Chairman of the Trustees of
The Rotary Foundation 2005-06
PRIP 2000-01

NEED A GIFT IDEA?

**Whether
it be celebratory or
in memorial or just
because - donate online in
your friend's or family
member's name.**

Online: https://riweb.rotaryintl.org/donor_xml/contributionmenu.asp

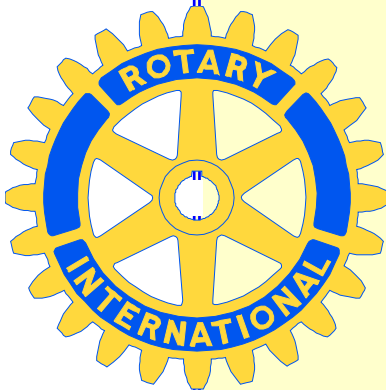
THE ROTARY FOUNDATION



Donald E. Osburn Selected President of Rotary International for 2007-08



Donald E. Osburn
Past RI Director
Past RRFC



Donald E. Osburn, of the Rotary Club of Easton, Maryland, USA, is the selection of the Nominating Committee for President of Rotary International in 2007-08. He will become the president-nominee on 1 December if there are no challenging candidates. Osburn is regional director emeritus of the University of Maryland and recipient of the Epsilon Sigma Phi Northeast Regional Extension Distinguished Service Award. He was a U.S. Department of Agriculture fellow, member of the Maryland Higher Education Commission, and director of the Maryland 4-H Foundation. He and his wife, Barbara, served as aides to 2004-05 RI President Glenn E. Estess Sr. and his wife, Mary.

A native of West Virginia, USA, Osburn has been a Rotarian since 1977 and is currently a member of the RI Finance Committee and the Chairman's Advisory Committee of The Rotary Foundation. He has also served as district governor, representative to the Council on Legislation, International Assembly discussion leader, regional Rotary Foundation coordinator, and task force member. Osburn has received the RI Service Above Self Award and the Foundation's Citation for Meritorious Service and Distinguished Service Award, and he and his wife are Foundation Major Donors. The couple has one daughter and one granddaughter.

SHARE YOUR SUGGESTIONS, COMMENTS AND SUCCESS STORIES WITH YOUR
RRFC COLLEAGUES. WRITE: TO THE EDITOR AT EBLENDER@AOL.COM

NEWS QUOTE:

“..... nationally, 29 percent of children (in the U.S.A.) had no health insurance at some point in the last 12 months, and many get neither checkups nor vaccinations. The U.S. ranks 84th in the world for measles immunizations and 89th for polio.”

NYT 06Sept2005

Through TRF and the Blane Community Immunization Grants - Rotarians in the USA can do something about these abysmal measles immunization statistics.

[Blane Community Immunization Grants \(U.S. only\)](#)

Vaccine-preventable diseases remain killers worldwide. Through travel and immigration, these diseases can easily reenter the U.S. population if residents become complacent and forego immunizations.

Blane Community Immunization Grants help clubs and districts in the United States address immunizations in their local community. Public and private partnerships have proven to be the most effective means for improving immunization rates; as such, Rotary clubs and districts are encouraged to work in conjunction with local health departments, health providers, and other community-based organizations.

Rotarians interested in establishing a partnership with an existing coalition are encouraged to visit the [Immunization Action Coalition](#) Web site at www.rotary.org.

[Additional materials:](#)

For information on Blane Community Immunization Grants, view a [PowerPoint presentation](#) designed for use at the club and district level, and download a [brochure](#) and [guide](#) containing facts and advice.



Rotarians respond to plight of Niger famine victims

By Vukoni Lupa-Lasaga
Rotary International News



A Nigerois woman nurses a starving child at a relief camp.
Photo courtesy UNICEF.

31 August 2005

First responders, including Rotarians, have rallied to the aid of nearly 3.5 million people affected by famine in Niger, one of the world's poorest countries.

A recent locust infestation and the southward spread of the Sahara have stretched Niger's coping mechanisms beyond the breaking point. The West African country is in the semiarid Sahel region, which even at the best of times is prone to severe food shortages resulting from insufficient rains.

The two Rotary clubs of Niger, both based in the capital of Niamey, have set up a crisis committee and a bank account to coordinate and facilitate relief efforts. Members of the committee have already met with Rotary International District 9100 Governor Laurence Kouassi and a government-appointed disaster response team.

In addition to contributing 500,000 (CFA) francs (approximately US\$1,000) toward a disaster fund, the Niamey clubs are helping with the collection and distribution of emergency relief. Other Rotary clubs in District 9100, which comprises 14 mostly French-speaking West African nations, including Niger, have also pitched in with donations of goods and money.

Clubs in Côte d'Ivoire are soliciting a bag of rice from each member and hope to collect a total of 280 bags, valued at \$3,000. There are plans to extend the appeal to all clubs in District 9100. If each Rotarian in the district donated a bag of rice, the total contributions would have a market value of \$22,000.

Close to one million malnourished children are at an increased risk of infection from opportunistic diseases such as diarrhea, malaria, and pneumonia. To help head off a health crisis, Rotary district leaders are dispatching 2,500 impregnated mosquito nets from Dakar, Senegal, to Niamey.

Continued next page

Niger famine victims

...Continued

The crisis committee is requesting contributions to address the following needs:

- Procurement and transportation of food items, with the assistance of the World Food Programme
- Purchase of medicine to reinforce efforts of UNICEF and Doctors Without Borders
- An immediate, one-time transportation of 500 tons of special malnutrition flour (Unimix) from Brussels to Niamey
- Creation of cereal banks (at a cost of \$5,000) and a food exchange (barter) program managed by an association of 100 women living in village communities
- Rotary Volunteers to help promote vegetable gardening and the growing of off-season crops by irrigation. This is a long-term effort aimed at improving food security, diversifying food sources, and creating income-generating opportunities for farmers.



"By the end of September, the government of Niger [and] the international and [local] donors will have implemented many initiatives to [address] the emergency situation," explains Gaston Kaba, a member of the crisis committee set up by the Niamey Rotary clubs. "Then, mid- and long-term strategies will take place to avoid the recurrence of food crisis."

For more details, please visit the [World Community Service disaster relief efforts page](#) or contact the following District 9100 officers:

[Laurence Kouassi](#), district governor

[Hyppolyte Ebagnitchie](#), district secretary

[Nicholas Mancus](#), chair of the district's Health, Water and Hunger Task Force



**RRFCS &
OUR FOUNDATION
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Rotary is a grassroots organization. When disaster strikes, Rotarians want to respond. They want to immediately make a connection through the Family of Rotary to provide relief and help where it is needed.

E.B.

ROTARY RAPID DISASTER RESPONSE

Rotary needs to solve the issue of response to disasters. Rotarians will not sit and do nothing. We need a mechanism that can be fired up within a few hours--a mechanism that will be nimble, responsive, and accountable. I think that the Katrina Relief DAF is the best response to the current situation and a viable template for the future (once the procedural details are codified).

In addition, maybe each RI Director or RRFCS needs to identify an emergency response person, a Rotarian, who has the skills and experience to be Rotary's liaison with governments, public safety, and emergency-preparedness officials. Most will never need to be called into action, but each year one or two surely will be. This person would provide the affected districts and their governors a technically skilled person to assist them in their leadership in intervening in these emergencies. With this technical guidance, the DAF administrative team would know what short-term interventions were necessary (e.g., shelter boxes) and what longer-term interventions are better alternatives (e.g., funds for matching grants, assistance in re-building the infrastructure, micro loans, etc).

Rotary is positioned to be highly responsive. We just need to have the systems in place. Rotarians have a need to be helpful. Our Rotary Foundation needs to respond to this need with a response mechanism.

Rapid Disaster Response

- 1. Establish capability for immediate information**
- 2. Identify a local Rotarian as an emergency response person**
- 3. Have local DAF administrators establish:**
 - *Short term needs**
 - *Long term needs**

Phil Silvers, Z25 RRFCS