

OUR FOUNDATION



ISSUE 20

NOVEMBER 15, 2005

TRF PROGRAM PARTICIPATION



PRRFC Eddie Blender
Zone 25, 2002-04

I recently had the opportunity to visit one of our Rotary Peace Centers and while there interviewed some of our World Peace students.

I was interested in how they learned of the Peace Scholarships and their opinion of the scholarship process.

In those that I interviewed each learned of the availability of the scholarships from others outside of Rotary. In fact one student had a great deal of difficulty “convincing” a local club to sponsor her. The reason? The club was concerned with how they could ever pay the cost of the World Peace Scholarship.

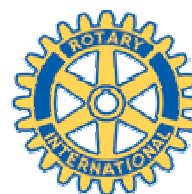
That’s not unusual. Although I believe that the strength of Rotary emanates from the club level—Rotary leadership fails to deliver

adequate Rotary Foundation information to the average club Rotarian.

Do Rotarians understand that every district has an opportunity to participate in a Group Study Exchange at no cost to them? Do they know that 32 Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarships are available to low income countries (at no cost)? Do they realize that every district in the world (all 529) has the opportunity to nominate a Rotary World Peace Fellow even if that district had made no financial contributions to TRF?

Rotary leadership must continue to reach and teach our membership. Greater knowledge equates to continued growth and greater support for our programs.

**THE OPPORTUNITIES
TO PARTICIPATE
IN MANY TRF
PROGRAMS
ARE AVAILABLE
REGARDLESS OF
THE DISTRICT’S
FUNDRAISING**



SERVICE Above Self

EARTHQUAKE, MUDSLIDES a n d FLOODS

How can we Respond?



As terrible as the Kashmir quake's toll already is, it seems certain to get worse. The United Nations reckons that 2.5 million people have been left without shelter. Landslides have destroyed many roads making it extremely difficult to bring in medical and food supplies. Many more people seem destined to die from illness, injury, hunger—or hypothermia, as Kashmir's bitter winter sets in.

Rotary shelter boxes and RIPP Glen Kinross' low cost shelter program might help to provide a temporary and quick fix.

One way is the Use of District Simplified Grant Funds for Disaster Relief Efforts

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, many Rotarians are interested in developing projects to alleviate the suffering and hardship of individuals in the affected communities. District Simplified Grants (DSG) are one means by which Rotarians can be actively involved in disaster relief efforts. District Simplified Grants are administered by district leadership and can be used to support local or international humanitarian projects that are conducted by Rotarians. Many of the needed items, such as basic necessities and medical care, can be provided through a District Simplified Grant.

Non-financial participation and direct oversight of grant funds is essential for all DSG-funded projects. DSG funds can be used for disaster relief efforts as long as Rotarians clearly identify the proposed grant-funded expenditures and Rotarian participation. DSG funds cannot be used as straight donations to a disaster-relief organization for unspecified purposes.

TRF encourage you to develop humanitarian projects in response to the disaster that meet DSG criteria. There are many in need of assistance following Hurricane Katrina, the Earthquakes in Kashmir, the Mudslides in Guatemala and the massive flood in Tapachula in Southern Mexico. TRF believes Rotarians will rise to the challenge to identify the needs and work to alleviate them.

To determine the availability of DSG funds in your district, contact your district Rotary Foundation committee chairperson or your district grants subcommittee chairperson. Please don't hesitate to contact the humanitarian grants staff via email at grants@rotaryintl.org to discuss the eligibility of your disaster relief project.

Focusing on the Permanent Fund

There is one fact that shall never change. That fact is that there will continually be ever increasing requests for more and more money for the educational and humanitarian programs of Rotary's Foundation by clubs and districts. Annual contributions cannot keep pace with those requests. The Rotary Foundation trustees must change our approach and refocus on the Endowment (Permanent Fund) to meet those future needs.

Currently, many of the major Foundations in the world use 15-32 % of the earned interest from their endowment to fund the annual operating budgets.

WE NEED TO CHANGE AND RE-FOCUS ON FUTURE GIFTS TO THE PERMANENT FUND FOR A PERIOD OF NO LESS THAN 10 YEARS. THE DREAM OF \$1 BILLION IN THE PERMANENT FUND OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS IS NOT UNREALISTIC. A GOAL OF \$5 BILLION BY 2025 WOULD BE A WORTHY AND CHALLENGING GOAL THE ROTARY WOULD AND COULD ENDORSE.



The 2001 and the 2004 Council On Legislations overwhelmingly passed resolutions originated in the clubs asking the trustees to focus on the endowment.

At the end of the 1993-94 Rotary year, The Rotary Foundation had \$17.7 million in the Endowment. The successes from the focus given by the trustees to the Permanent Fund Initiative

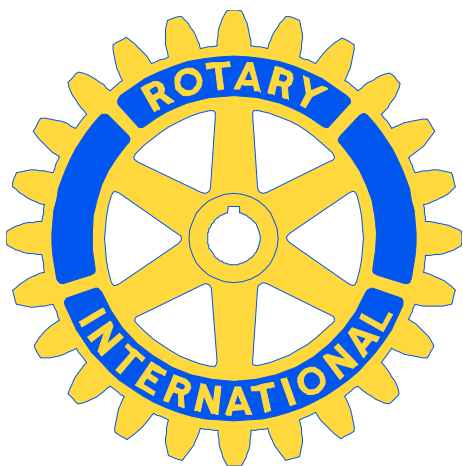
that began in 1995 are well documented with almost \$500 million in the Permanent Fund. Currently, we show \$160 million in net assets and approximately \$300 million in documented expectancies. These are the documented dollars. We have no idea of the funds to be realized from those currently listed as benefactors. And, most importantly, Annual Giving has not decreased – it has increased.

As of 30 September 2005 expectancies to the Permanent Fund stood at US\$299 million. As of 30 June 2005 the Fund's net assets were US\$157.8 million.

Continued on page 14 ...

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

What Paul Harris Said...



Rotarians are very much more favorably disposed toward action than they are toward words.

Paul P. Harris
The National Rotarian
November 1911

Rotarians want to know and to know quickly when a disaster strikes:

- *What area needs help?*
- *Who do we contact?*
- *With whom should we work?*
- *Are supplies needed rapidly?*
- *Is cash more important?*
- *Is it important to provide financial aid quickly?*
- *Rotarians overwhelmingly want to work with Rotarians.....*
- *Is there a TRF plan?*



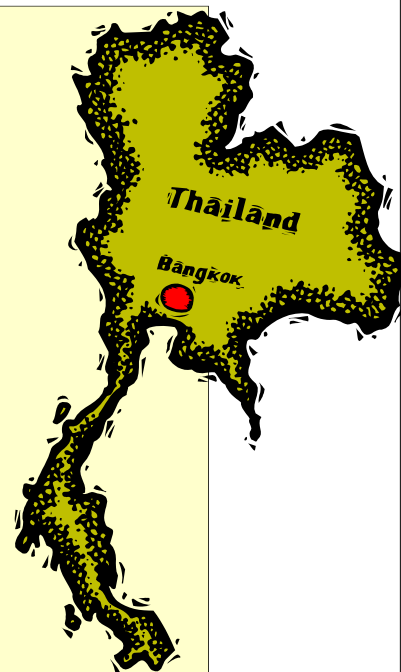
A "WHAT PAUL HARRIS SAID" message will be sent (free-of-charge) to you and to whoever you wish. Please register for this free weekly service by sending an e-mail request to:
Chairman@RotaryHistoryFellowship.org

A NEW CENTER FOR WORLD PEACE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

As part of its ongoing effort to promote world peace and international understanding, Rotary International will establish a Rotary Center for Peace and Conflict Studies at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand. Beginning in July 2006, the new center at Chulalongkorn University will pilot the Rotary Peace and Conflict Studies program, a special three-month course in peace studies, conflict resolution and mediation training aimed at middle and upper-level managers in governments, non-governmental organizations, and private corporations.

Rotary clubs may nominate applicants to a selection committee of The Rotary Foundation, which administers the Rotary Peace and Conflict Studies program and other popular educational initiatives of Rotary, the world's largest privately funded source of international, university-level scholarships.

Each fellow's employer will be expected to cover the US\$4,000 cost of the three-month session, including tuition, room-and-board and educational materials. The Rotary Foundation will cover the expenses of roundtrip travel between the fellow's home and Bangkok..



Rotary Peace and Conflict Studies Program - Application Deadline

The Rotary Peace and Conflict Studies Program is currently accepting applications for the 2006-07 program year. Districts must submit all endorsed applications to TRF by 15 January 2006.

Applications can be downloaded from the Rotary Peace and Conflict Studies website at:

<http://www.rotary.org/foundation/educational/rpcsp/index.html>.

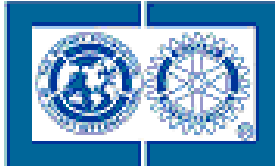
WHAT IS A CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY?

A charitable gift annuity is *a simple contract between you and The Rotary Foundation*.

In exchange for your irrevocable gift of cash, securities, or other assets, The Rotary Foundation agrees to pay you or 1-2 other annuitants a fixed sum each year for life. The older your design-

nated annuitants are at the time of the gift, the greater the fixed income The Rotary Foundation can agree to pay. In most cases, part of each payment is tax-free, increasing each payment's after-tax value.

Payments may be made annually, semiannually, or quarterly.



Our World Peace Fellows at work in Africa

ROTARY WORLD PEACE FELLOWS (RWPF's) ALUMNI AT WORK IN AFRICA

Susan Stigant (2005 RWPF, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill) is in **Nairobi, Kenya** working for the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs on their Sudan program. Her specific task is to provide support to the constitutional technical committee and later to a constitutional convention. Later she will support a civic education campaign on the constitution that will take information (primarily via radios) to be distributed throughout South Sudan.



Amy Erickson (2004 RWPF, the University of Bradford) is Director of the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (British arm of CARITAS) working with their peace and reconciliation program in the Great Lake region of Africa (**Congo**).

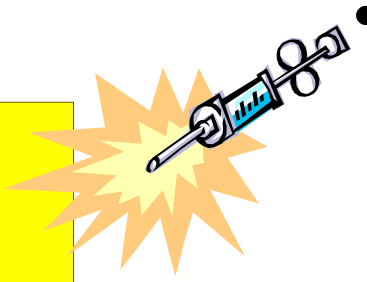
Amy Kay (2004 RWPF, The University of Queensland) is working in Cairo, **Egypt** for the United Nations Development program working on the organizations HIV/AIDS regional program in the Arab States.

Carolyn Fanelli, (2004 RWPF, The University of Queensland) is a Documentation and Dissemination Officer with Catholic Relief Services in **Zimbabwe**. The position is a communications role—gathering information about their programs in Zimbabwe and facilitating information-sharing. The work is heavily focused on orphaned and vulnerable children and people affected by HIV/AIDS

Helga Bara Bragadottir (2004 RWPF, University of Bradford) is in **Angola**. She is a Junior Professional Officer working for the United Nations Development Program.

Mai Hosoi (2005, RWPF, Duke University) is a Junior Professional Officer at the International Organization on Migration, based in Khartoum, **Sudan**

Whooping Cough Cases Rise Sharply



If you've ever seen a child with pertussis (whooping cough) you won't forget it. The child coughs violently and rapidly over and over until the air is gone from her lungs and she is forced to inhale with the loud whooping sound.

Cases of whooping cough dramatically declined over the past half-century because most children get several shots against it by age 6. However, immunity wears off over time, and outbreaks among U.S. adults and teenagers began rising sharply during the 1990s.

Two safer new vaccines against whooping cough could prevent up to 1 million cases among U.S. teenagers and adults each year and keep them from infecting children, who can die from the illness, a government study found.

Whooping cough can cause weeks of misery and coughing so severe it cracks ribs. The bacterial disease can kill children, particularly unvaccinated babies.

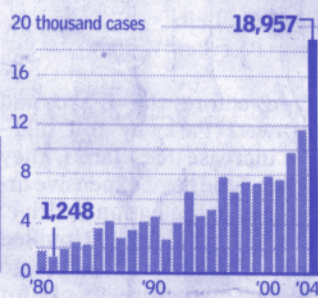
The Blane Community Immunization Grants Program Helps Clubs and Districts Address Immunization

Whooping cough cases rise sharply

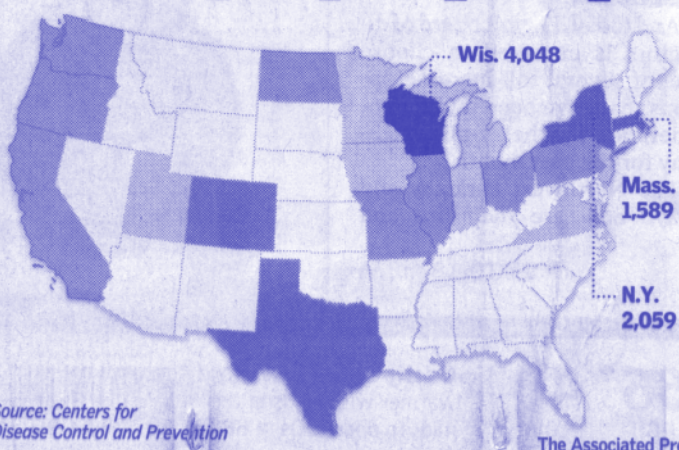
Whooping cough outbreaks among adults and teens began rising during the 1990s because immunity wears off over time. A drastic increase in the illness was seen in 2004.

The number of diagnosed cases has more than doubled since 2000.

States with highest number of diagnosed whooping cough cases, 2004



0-246 247-499 500-799 800-1,099 1,100-2,099 2,100+



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The Associated Press

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.

For further Blane Immunization Program information:

<http://www.rotary.org/newroom/downloadcenter/foundation/humanitarian.html#blane>



WHEN THE NEED ARISES

Rotarians open their hearts and wallets and immediately step-up when crisis (or disaster) occurs. Rotarians prefer working with Rotarians and often when no clear direction emanates from TRF – they quickly respond (albeit, often haphazardly) with cash to whom-ever asks.

DONOR FATIGUE?

The outpouring of help after major disasters always raises fears that donations to local charities will be pinched. But in truth, normal giving patterns tend to bounce back quickly. Eugene R. Temel of the Indiana University Center of Philanthropy reported in a recent article that... “Research ... indicates that disaster giving is unlikely to have a severe impact on other nonprofits' fundraising.”

Rotarians and Alumni and Vocational Service

Have you seen how many former Rotary Ambassadorial Scholars and Rotary Youth Exchangers eventually become some of Rotary's strongest members and advocates.

When you think about it, many young entrepreneurs possess technical skills and knowledge about the *widgits* they create, yet lack the business skills to become successful business owners. Rotarians, successful in their own right, and Rotary Clubs may want to look for vocational opportunities to work hand-in-hand with other organizations in the micro-enterprise arena or create community outreach programs that offer assistance to budding entrepreneurs.



It makes sense that future Rotarians may very well be the very young entrepreneurs that learn from Rotarians. A definite win-win for everybody!

Ed Fischer, Chairperson
District 6990 Communications Committee
Rotary International
E-mail: ed@speakoutinc.com

Foundation Alumni Resource Group

An important part of your Zone TRF team is the Foundation Alumni Resource Group members. The first centralized training session was held in Skokie 10 – 12 August and was a rousing success.

Past Rotary Foundation Vice President Lou Piconi served as the General Coordinator for the meeting and was very inspiring. He clearly made the group aware of the fact that they were members of the RRFC team. In the next several months we will be improving the staff support capability for these important members of your Zone TRF team. Please be sure to introduce them to the DGEs and incorporate their participation in your Foundation seminars.

Encourage the DGEs to use the Foundation Alumni Resource Group members as a resource and to have the district Alumni Subcommittee Chairs connect with them and support them. The ultimate goal is to get a much better return on investment from our alumni and this will now be an area of emphasis.



WHAT IS A CHARITABLE REMAINDER UNITRUST?

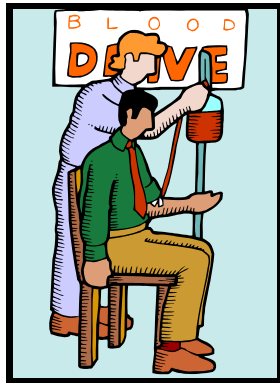
A charitable remainder unitrust ("unitrust") is a gift plan defined by federal tax law that allows you to provide income to yourself or others for life or a term of years while making a generous gift to The Rotary Foundation.

As a unitrust donor, you irrevocably transfer assets, usually cash or securities, to a trustee of your choice (for example, The Rotary Foundation or a bank trust department). During the unitrust's term, the trustee invests the

unitrust's assets. Each year, the trustee distributes a fixed percentage of the unitrust's value, as revalued annually, to you or other income beneficiaries named by you. Payments must be at least 5% of the trust's annual value and are made out of trust income, or trust principal if income is not adequate. Payments may be made annually, semiannually, or quarterly.

When the unitrust term ends, the unitrust's principal passes to The Rotary Foundation, to be used for the purpose you designate.

PROACTIVE RATHER THEN REACTIVE - WHY WAIT FOR THE CRISIS?



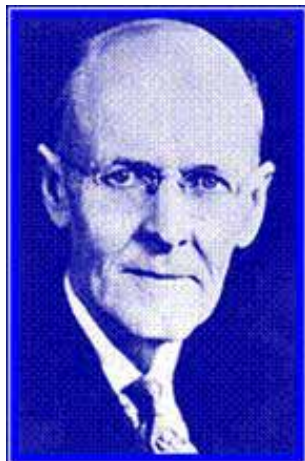
If the Avian Flu mutates (and a pandemic occurs) our health system and hospitals will be in turmoil as flu patients will increase the hospital bed and the usual blood demand. The bird flu makes victims vulnerable to bleeding and there is a shelf life of only 42-days for liquid blood.



Bernadine Healy M.D. recently wrote in US News and World Report.... "As blood banks dry up, they won't be easily replenished; donors in affected areas will be sick or unable to give because of the risk that they are carrying the lethal virus themselves.

There is a way to counter the blood problem, if we put it in place ahead of time. It's one the military uses and an approach I pushed, unsuccessfully, for the civilian blood supply as Red Cross president: a strategic reserve. It would consist of fully screened and frozen blood, with a shelf life of more than 10 years, not the 42-day life span of liquid blood. The plan never came to fruition because of concerns that it would not be cost-effective."

A new monument in Washington honors Paul Harris



Rotary Founder **Paul Harris is among 20 Americans recognized in a new U.S. national monument honoring pioneers in service.**

The "Extra Mile -- Points of Light Volunteer Pathway," a series of bronze markers, was unveiled along a one-mile stretch of downtown Washington, DC, several blocks east of the White House. The monument honors and tells the stories of selfless Americans who turned their dreams of helping others into great movements that have created enduring change.

Former U.S. President George Bush dedicated the monument 14 October.

An Opportunity for Rotarians in the United States

KATRINA TAX ACT UPDATE

On Friday, September 23rd, the *Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act of 2005 (KETRA)* became U.S. law. This act features a number of tax incentives for those directly impacted by the destruction of Hurricane Katrina as well as those individuals and businesses that provide aid.

The act contains important implications for charitable giving. Under prior law, itemized deductions for gifts of cash were limited to 50% of the donor's Adjusted Gross Income (AGI). **KETRA suspends the 50% of AGI limit** for "qualified gifts" and contains a carryover provision for gifts in excess of these amounts.

Additionally, the act waives the reduction of itemized deductions by 3% of the amount by which AGI exceeds \$145,950 (\$72,975 for married persons filing separately).

"Qualified gifts" are defined as gifts of cash, to any charity that qualifies for contributions under Section 170(b)(1)(A) of the internal revenue code, that are completed during the period beginning on 29 August 2005 and ending on 31 December 2005. The charity does not need to be related to Katrina Relief. Please note that gifts to donor advised funds, supporting organizations, private foundations, and charitable remainder trusts are **excluded**.

Thus, KETRA, has made outright gifts from most qualified retirement plans more beneficial taxwise for those 59 ½ or older because the full amount donated can be taken as a deduction. (Those in the hurricane area may have additional retirement benefits).

Due to the variances in state law, retirement plans and your individual tax situation, donors are urged to check with their tax advisors before making a gift or taking a retirement plan withdrawal to fund a charitable gift.

If you would like additional information about the act, please contact Karena Bierman at (847) 866-3100. If you would like to make a gift to The Rotary Foundation, please contact Karena, Sean Allen at (847) 866-3190 or Terri Stough at (847) 424-5399.





*Louis Piconi, PRRFC
2000-01 RI VP*

“... I achieved my personal goal of obtaining 5 new Bequest Society members and a Paul Harris Society Member.”

... Purely Personal

In the many discussions with trustee chair Frank Devlyn, he often cites to me his 4 key words for our Rotary Foundation, Think, Time, Talent, and Treasure.

The Rotary Foundation is my personal **TREASURE** for people who may never know its name, like those billions of children we immunized from polio. I made my annual contribution of \$1,000 and achieved my personal goal of obtaining 1 new Rotarian committed to contribute a minimum of

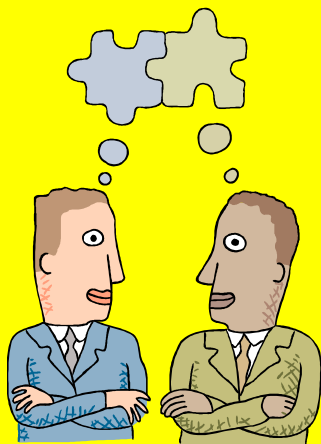
\$1,000 every year and 5 new Bequest Society members on or before 1 November 2005.

It was not hard and not too significant. However, it does make me feel good to know that in these small ways I have helped to make a better world ensuring the next generation can have the treasured opportunity to grow normally, attain basic education and freely choose how they too can make the world more peaceful.

I wish you all the best of success as you celebrate our treasured Rotary Foundation month of November by achieving your goals for those districts you have responsibility as RRFC.

Louis Piconi, PRIVP, Moderator, 2005 RRFC Institute

Many Rotarians don't know about Rotary's work around the world or feel personally involved in Rotary's mission. This lack of knowledge and personal commitment leads the average busy Rotarian to lose interest and that loss of interest leads to the loss of a member.



We need to make Rotary more interesting and more personal for them, through almost-immediate involvement in a project that benefits individuals in their community and through programs that offer education and involvement about Rotary and what it does Internationally.

Why do Rotarians Give and to whom do they give?



Some basic elements to think about during Our Rotary Foundation month

It's good to remember that:

Before encouraging others to give, you should be a donor first. If you haven't yet made your annual gift, lead by example and contribute during Foundation month.

People give because they are asked to give. If Rotarians are not aware of the need, you cannot expect them to respond.

Fundraising is not just asking for a gift, it's inspiring. Tell the story of Rotary. Talk about Foundation projects you've been personally involved in, those which have been a life-changing experience for you and for those helped by the project.

People give to people. When Rotarians contribute to our Rotary Foundation, they are supporting the programs and projects identified, developed and managed by their fellow Rotarians throughout the world. Other charitable organizations do not inspire their members or donors to participate in both giving and the decision-making on how their contributions are spent. This is unique only unto Rotary. Encourage Rotarians to get involved in their Rotary Foundation. Involved Rotarians, remain Rotarians for life.

Fundraising is about needs, not achievements. While we talk often of setting Annual Programs Fund Goals, achieving a US\$100 per capita or more, or achieving 100% participation in ***Every Rotarian, Every Year***, the real goal is identifying a need and then taking the necessary actions to fulfill that need – and just making the world a better place today than it was yesterday.

Realizing that there are more needs in the world than we can fulfill but we can make a difference. Sadly, we could never fulfill every need that is out there, but if we don't continue to encourage ***Every Rotarian*** to contribute ***Every Year***, we won't accomplish anything. Through our collective contributions to The Rotary Foundation, we continually find meaningful ways to help others.

Share the Foundation message with every Rotary club. Make every effort to work with other senior leaders, district governors, district governors-elect, district Rotary Foundation chairs, annual giving subcommittee chairs, permanent fund chairs, to ensure that every Rotary club contributes something to the Foundation. In 2004-2005, there were nearly 8,000 Rotary clubs who did not contribute to the Foundation. Look to see how many noncontributing clubs you had in your zone(s). Find out the reasons why. Do they really know what The Rotary Foundation is all about?

Share the messages with The Rotary Foundation. TRF appreciate the fundraising ideas you give them to share with others on TRF's website and in their publications. One great idea can generate ten more. TRF takes your suggestions seriously. Keep those ideas coming.

The success of our Foundation programs depends on the work we do to increase awareness and educate the Rotarians in our zones, districts and clubs about The Rotary Foundation.

Focusing on the Permanent Fund

Continued....

WE NEED THE TRUSTEES TO CHANGE AND FOCUS NOT ONLY ON ANNUAL GIVING, BUT FOCUS ON THE PERMANENT FUND FOR THE NEXT 10 YEARS.

Since 1995, the Rotary Foundation has realized and spent over \$32 million from the Permanent Fund. Granted, during that time we completed a very successful capital campaign for polio eradication and the trustees made the decision to not emphasize the Permanent Fund.

We need to change and refocus on future gifts to the Permanent Fund for a period of no less than 10 years. *The dream of \$1 billion in the Permanent Fund over the next 10 years is not unrealistic. A goal of \$5 billion by 2025 would be a worthy and challenging goal the Rotary world could endorse.*

Just imagine the results if Rotarians left just 2 % of their assets to the Permanent Fund with the stipulation that the earned interest from their gift be directed through the SHARE system where 50% would come back to the district to be used for TRF projects selected by the clubs and districts. Just imagine how many educational or humanitarian programs of the Rotary Foundation each district could fund every year through

named \$250,000 or \$500,000 bequests.

It is in the best interest of all Rotarians and the Rotary Foundation to attain a significant endowment. That renewed focus must begin as soon as possible, especially if a new corporate project develops over the next 5 years. Further, the trustees must have the ability to help satisfy the most pressing funding needs from a portion of the earned interest from the Permanent Fund. Additionally, each Rotary district should and could have funds available to leverage matching money for the projects they select and Rotarians should be encouraged and should want to contribute a portion of their assets to TRF instead of going to the government in taxes.

The change and focus does not necessarily take cash; and, significant results will not happen over night. We need the trustees to change and focus not only on Annual Giving, but focus on the Permanent Fund (at a minimum) for the next 10 years



Polio remains only a plane ride away.



Although polio was eliminated from the Americas in 1994, the disease still circulates in Asia and Africa, paralyzing the world's most vulnerable children. *In a continually shrinking world, polio and other vaccine-*

preventable diseases remain only a plane ride away.

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative, spearheaded by the World Health Organization, Rotary International, the CDC and UNICEF, was begun in 1988. That year, an estimated 350,000 children were paralyzed with polio worldwide; in 2004, polio cases had fallen to just over 1,200 cases globally.

Three more cases of polio virus infection was reported in central Minnesota. These new cases are linked to case reported on Oct. 1 and officials stress that general public is not at risk

Like the infant, the three children do not have any symptoms of paralytic polio – and like the infant, they had NOT been vaccinated against the illness.

WHAT IS THE ROTARY FOUNDATION POOLED INCOME FUND?

The TRF Pooled Income Fund is a pooled income fund ("Fund"), a gift plan defined by federal tax law that allows you to provide income to yourself or others for life while making a generous gift to charity.

When you make a donation to the Rotary Founda-

tion Pooled Income Fund, your irrevocable gift of cash or securities is invested together with the gifts of all other Fund donors. Your proportional share of the Fund's income is distributed quarterly for life to you or other income beneficiaries you name. The amount distributed varies with the Fund's earnings. When the last income beneficiary of your gift dies, the principal attributable to your gift is removed from the Fund and given to The Rotary Foundation, to be used for the purpose you designate.



**RRFCS &
OUR FOUNDATION**
NOVEMBER 15, 2005
ISSUE #20

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Progress is not inevitable. We must struggle and sacrifice to secure a better future for all of us and for the world's children. When we fail, the world slips backward. Whether we move forward depends upon the quality of those who lead and abundant mutual respect amongst us.

LOW COST SHELTERS

Shelter boxes and low cost shelters are a rapid response mechanism for disaster relief. Are your clubs and districts aware of these quick action (quick response) TRF schemes?

Does enough information emanate quickly enough from TRF so that Rotarians can respond appropriately? At this time the answer is no.

Rotarians are eager for TRF to take the lead and offer information and advice for Rapid Emergency Relief.

**ROTARIANS
PREFER
PROACTIVE
RESPONSE

ROTARIANS
WANT TO
WORK WITH
ROTARIANS**

THE HAVES AND HAVE NOTS

Developed nations are working overtime - producing vaccine for a possible influenza pandemic. No country has enough vaccines or medicines available to control an outbreak of the avian influenza now circulating in Asia if that flu virus mutates. If the virus does become easily transmissible among humans a pandemic is possible.

Although developed nations are stockpiling vaccines - will they have enough to share with poorer developing nations? At this time they won't. Imagine the humanitarian chaos that could develop as richer nations protect their citizens while an epidemic begins to spiral in Asia.