



ROTARY FOUNDATION ALUMNI COORDINATOR RFACTION TEAM BULLETIN

November – December 2005 – FIRST RFAC Issue



Message from Trustee Chairman Frank J. Devlyn

Amigos,
In support of the emphasis on Alumni and you, the RFACs, the following Trustee Chairman message has been placed on the Rotary web for December. Feel free to pass this message on to all district TRF committee members through the RRFC.

Foundation Alumni: A Tremendous Resource

Dear Amigos,

Alumni are a tremendous resource for Rotary. There are more than 90,000 people in the world who are considered Foundation alumni. But we know only a small percentage of them ever participate in Rotary club projects, become Rotarians, or ever contribute to The Rotary Foundation. We need that to change – and you are asked to help eliminate the current outdated perception and philosophy. They should not be forgotten. They *are* The Rotary Foundation. They are members of our Rotary Family.

What always impresses me about our Alumni is that they all have tremendous stories to tell. Our Alumni talk about their experience as a Foundation ambassadorial scholar, or their GSE trip, or their Volunteer work as a life-changing experience. Alumni are compelling advocates for our Foundation.

When you need to convince Rotarians of the value of our programs nothing works better than having Alum share their experiences, thank our Foundation and their sponsoring Rotary club. When Alumni share with us their compelling stories it makes Rotarians proud of what their Foundation has done to inspire these people.

Recently, a group of Rotarians dedicated to Foundation alumni – the Rotary Foundation Alumni Coordinators (formerly known as the Foundation Alumni Resource Group) met in Skokie, Illinois. My two charges to them were:

1. Attain a Better return on Investment from our alumni, and,
2. Make TRF Alumni an integral part of Rotary.

Those two goals apply to every Rotary club and district. So I encourage you to spend more time in working with your Alumni. Contact your district Foundation alumni chair. Contact your Foundation alumni coordinator (they are all listed here: <http://www.rotary.org/foundation/alumni/resource.html>)

At present, we see a few great examples of our alumni in action in some parts of the world; however, we also know that alumni are not a priority for most Rotary clubs and districts around the world. Rotary has so many programs and emphases that Alumni have simply fallen through the cracks. But friends, a Foundation scholarship now costs \$26,000; a GSE team is \$11,000. We invest in these individuals. And then we ignore the investment. It just doesn't make good business sense.

We also know that many scholars or GSE team members, when they return from their time abroad, give maybe one or two talks to local clubs, or, if it's a GSE team, to a district conference. But then they are never contacted again by their sponsoring Rotary club. What is worse is that we lose contact and our connection with these people who have benefited from our programs. Most Alumni do not

like this and neither do I. Most Alumni want to continue to be a part of Rotary because Rotary taught them the joy and art of giving back and making a difference to others.

Friends, I have often heard the criticism that our alumni do not give back to Rotary. They simply take our money and walk away. I know this is not true.

Steve Hollingworth is a former scholar, sponsored by Rotarians in Elgin Illinois in 1980. He went to Manchester, England to study international development. The experience with Rotary convinced him that he should dedicate his life to helping the poorest of the poor. He went to work for the relief agency CARE international. He worked in Malawi, Bolivia, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, and since 2002, he has been the director of CARE India.

India is home to over 1 billion people, many of them living on less than \$1 a day. As director of CARE India, Steve oversees a \$60 million budget for aid programs that reach some 6.5 million people. Their projects are like Rotary's humanitarian grants: they focus on health, on educating women, and on economic development – specifically micro-credit loans to poor women to help them achieve economic self sufficiency. They have been highly successful in repeating the kind of success the Grameen Bank has achieved in Bangladesh. In addition, they are a disaster relief agency. When the tsunami hit the Tamil Nadu region of Southern India last December, CARE was one of the primary agencies that moved in to help victims of the disaster.

So I ask you: In 1980, when Rotarians in Illinois selected Steve Hollingsworth to be a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar and future alum, and the Rotary Foundation invested \$12,000 in Steve Hollingworth, was that a good investment? Has Rotary seen a positive return on investment from that lone Scholarship award? Has Steve Hollingsworth made a difference to many people?

In some parts of the world, Alumni have formed associations and communicate with each other via email and meet on a regular basis. They develop a friendship and their own service projects in addition to supporting their clubs and district. They are included – not excluded from Rotary activities. This is the model that should be seen in every district.

This past October, during the Trustees' meeting in Evanston, Illinois, it was my great pleasure to honor three Rotarians who made substantial gifts to The Rotary Foundation. One was a former Ambassadorial Scholar who became a Rotarian and continues to serve, and the other two were former GSE Team Leaders. Together, the three gifts totaled more than *US \$1.5 million*. These alumni wanted to thank The Rotary Foundation for the life-changing experiences they had. We are certainly grateful for their extraordinary generosity. And I am convinced there are more alumni like them. We have to find them and give them an opportunity to be a part of our organization. We have to reconnect them to Rotary, and then we have to ask. Certainly, most Alumni would appreciate the opportunity to make an annual contribution of a \$100 or more every year.

Amigos, I ask you to **Create Awareness** of our Foundation Alumni and **Take Action** to make them active members of our Family of Rotary. The rewards will be more than we ever expected.

Your Amigo in Mexico City,
Frank Devlyn
Trustee Chair 2005-06, The Rotary Foundation
President, 2000-2001 Rotary International

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RFAC General Coordinator Lou Piconi

First, thank you for all your efforts to date. It is rewarding to see the creativity, actions and communications of many of you. Please keep it up and communicate to each other often to share successes and/or activities.

A few points worth noting:

- If there is someone in a district who should be thanked for their efforts, please let us know. Trustee Chair Frank wants to recognize them.
- Ensure you mention in all presentations that the trustees strongly encourage the sponsor clubs of educational awardees to invite the awardees to participate in club meetings prior to and for at least three months following the period of their award.
- The Trustees established a Global Alliance of TRF Alumni for all Foundation alumni.
- Get yourself invited to give a presentation at upcoming Rotary Foundation Seminars, and especially at 2006 PETS, District Assemblies and District Conferences. Communicate; work with and through your RRFC. **You are a member of the “The Rotary Foundation RRFC TEAM.”**

Thank you.



RFAC Assistant General Coordinator Bill Mulkey

My fellow Global RFAC colleagues, almost half of our Rotary year is history and hopefully all of us can say “time flies when you are having FUN.” From the e-mail correspondence and the Quarterly Activity Reports I have received, I commend you and thank you for what has been accomplished, but there is much to be done.



Thanks for the responses after receiving the **District Alumni Subcommittee Chair Training Guide**. Most stated that you were putting it to use with your districts and hopefully you are already seeing positive results. Please continue in your efforts to have your districts appoint a dedicated Rotarian as Alumni Chair, train that individual, and motivate them to locate their alumni and involve them in the world of Rotary.

We appreciate those Alumni Coordinators who have taken the time to document their alumni activities by completing the **RFAC Quarterly Activity Report** and submitting it on a timely basis. If you have not, it is never too late. Please take the time to do so at your earliest convenience.

I, too, encourage all of you to **correspond** with the team by e-mail at a minimum of once a month and to General Chair Lou Piconi, myself and Gary Millman. Sharing the negatives, as well as the positives will provide obstacle awareness and we can create ways and means to turn those negatives into positives. Working together we can and will achieve our objectives.

One of my favorite quotes I often use comes from a very famous professional American football coach, Vince Lombardi: **“The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual.”**

A shining STAR in our galaxy of Foundation Alumni, Francesca del Mese, World Peace Fellow, spoke at the Zone 27 & 28 Institute in Madison, Wisconsin on September 15th. Francesca studied at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia during 2002-04 where she received a Master’s degree in peace and conflict resolution studies. Currently, Francesca is working at the U.N.’s International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia at The Hague. As a practicing barrister, Francesca specializes in human rights. A UK native with degrees from Anglia University and the College of Law in London and York, she chose her profession to assist people in securing their liberty and to help them attain basic human rights. Francesca feels that cross-cultural lawyers and government advisors are needed more than ever to harmonize warring countries and ethnic groups. She is very passionate about the need for peace and will dedicate her career to bringing about improved relations and resolve conflicts around the world. In June 2005, Francesca was one of seven Rotary World Peace Fellow alumni who spoke at the RI Convention in Chicago.

Francesca is one of our Alumni we need to connect with and she needs to connect with Rotary for many years to help achieve Rotary’s mission. That is our objective and we have the privilege to help make it happen.

