Greetings Heart of America Rotary Leaders,

December is a special month for two of the world’s great religions. It is a time of giving gifts and reflecting on the gifts we have been given. It is a time to be thankful for the gifts we have received.

President Ravi’s theme, “Be A Gift to the World,” has special meaning this month. Elaborating on the theme, President Ravi says:

“The glory of Rotary is that it helps us find a way to . . . live richer, more meaningful lives, by encouraging us to focus our attention on the things that matter — and helping each of us find our own way to be a gift to the world.

“Every one of us has something to give — whoever we are, whatever our place in life. We can give our talent, our knowledge, our abilities, and our effort; we can give our dedication and our devotion. Through Rotary, we can take these gifts and make a genuine difference in the lives of others and in our world.”

Ron and I are grateful for our wonderful family and the family of Rotary in the Heart of America and around the world. We are astonished at the selfless and dedicated work Rotarians do as they share their gifts with others. Margaret Mead captures the power of Rotary clubs and Rotarians around the world: “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

We wish you joyous holidays and a very Happy New Year Heart of America Rotarians.

Karen Wentz, RI Director 2015-17
Coming Attractions

RI CONVENTION
May 28, 2016-June 1, 2016
Seoul, Korea

ROTARY INSTITUTE
October 13-16, 2016
 Zones 30 & 31
Cincinnati, Ohio
Hyatt Regency

October 11-13, 2016
Governors-elect,
Governors-nominee and
Spouses/Partners Seminars

October 13, 2016
District Governors and
Spouses/Partners Seminar

TBA
Emerging Rotary Leaders Seminar

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Heart of America Event at Seoul Convention

Yes, we will have a Heart of America gathering at the Seoul Convention. PDG Tim and Amy Lee are chairing it and have been working with the convention concierge for a couple of months to identify a suitable location. It will likely be a cocktail and Korean hors d'oeuvres reception on Saturday prior to the Korean Welcome Festival HOC event. We are looking for a venue near the Welcome Festival.

Seoul Convention Breakout Sessions – Heart of America Proposals Accepted

I know of at least two breakout session proposals that have been accepted for the Seoul convention. RIDN Greg Yank will lead a session panel on Club Visioning and Planning. Ron Appuhn will lead a session on the Heart to Heart program and projects. If any other proposals have been accepted please let me know.

Rotary Foundation Giving Totals and Goals

Rotary Foundation giving totals to date for every district in the Heart of America will be included in the *Heartbeat* beginning with this issue. You can track your district’s progress compared to the others. One of our goals for 2015-16 is that every district reaches an average $100 per capita. Last year in Zone 30, four of the 12 districts achieved this goal with several others just a few dollars away. In Zone 31, nine of the 14 districts achieved this goal with several others “this close.” I am confident every district will exceed last year’s annual giving by at least 10% and all will reach $100 per capita as we move into the Rotary Foundation’s Centennial year in 2016-17.

Bartlesville, Oklahoma Club Centennial

We attended another magnificent 100th Anniversary celebration – this time in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. The celebration featured a video history, a Centennial Review booklet and a gala banquet. The club Centennial project was the completion of the restoration of the popular historic steam railroad engine, oil car and caboose including interpretive signage. This 130-member club, led by Centennial President Lori Roll and her team, is justifiably proud of the past and planning for an active future of Rotary service. We are inspired by these celebrations and in awe of the continuous Service Above Self demonstrated by the Rotarians.
BE A GIFT TO THE WORLD – IN FINE ART

PDG Rod Buffington (D6460 IL) is a gifted artist with a vision and interpretation of our Rotary theme for 2015-16. Rod creates unique quilt paintings in mixed media. He uses a combination of watercolor, 100% inlaid designer cotton fabric and finished with silk button hole thread stitched details and border. When he saw the theme for 2015-16 he was motivated to create his “Be A Gift To The World” painting, which he presented to RI President Ravi Ravindran and his wife Vanathy and now hangs outside the President’s office at Rotary International headquarters.

Rod explains his vision. The “log cabin” quilt pattern is repeated throughout the work of art. The yellow tones of the sky represent sunrises around the world. The green tones represent the “grass roots” of Rotary. The colorful borders symbolize the diversity of the world. Purple represents the mystery and grandeur of Antarctica. The coral border brings to mind the Shibori designs of Asia. President Ravi’s home in Sri Lanka is represented through the gift box border. The next border is fabric from Africa and signifies the many tribes living throughout the continent. The green border embodies the lush rainforests of South America and especially Brazil.”

The artist has created beautiful first edition prints from this painting, which he is now selling to raise money for PolioPlus. Each numbered print is signed by Rod, RI President Ravi Ravindran and Rotary Foundation Chair Ray Klinginsmith. Each print measures 23”x23” (the print image is 16”x16”) and is printed on high quality watercolor paper.

Print Number 1 was presented to Rotary International Director Karen Wentz at the Rotary Institute in Baton Rouge. Rod has also presented a print to each Rotary International director and Rotary Foundation trustee. Director Karen says “this will be one of my most treasured mementoes from Rotary year 2015-16. Rod has the unique talent and vision to interpret our theme in a work of fine art. I bought several other copies to give as special gifts.”

These beautiful prints are for sale for $100 each with an additional $18.00 for shipping/handling in the contiguous United States. Fifty dollars of each sale will be donated to The Rotary Foundation for PolioPlus and is tax deductible.

The “Be A Gift to the World Print“ would be a wonderful and unique item to auction at a club or district fundraiser. It also would be a wonderful gift for anyone serving in a district or club leadership role or to recognize a special Rotarian or community member.

Please see this website for ordering information: http://print.springfieldilrotary.org.

Director Karen says: “Thank you Rod. You have special gifts as an artist and your beautiful print is lasting a gift to the world.”
FOCUS ON ROTARY PROJECTS IN THE HEART OF AMERICA:

SAVING THE AIDS ORPHANS IN SWAZILAND

Rotarians Cheri McDaniel (Rotary Club of Baton Rouge—Capital City, D6200) and Daran Rehmeyer (Rotary Club of Mbabane, Swaziland) are on a mission to save the children of Swaziland. Swaziland suffers from the world’s highest HIV rate (27.4%, World Health Organization 2013). Children and adolescents bear the burden of having lost parents, aunts and uncles, often leaving the oldest child in the family as the head of the household. Many children also struggle to survive with HIV. Untreated, only 15% of these children will live to age 10. Treated, adolescents still struggle to stay on the medicines to keep the virus at bay.

Dan Rehmeyer, a Baton Rouge native, and his family moved to Swaziland in 2004 to help these AIDS orphans who desperately need medical treatment, a home and love. He returned to Louisiana for a visit in 2010 and spoke at the Rotary Club of Baton Rouge—Capital City, which is where he met Cheri McDaniel. Cheri and her 22-member club became very involved in supporting the need for a treatment center in Swaziland for children with HIV.

Cheri and Dan have created a Rotary Foundation Donor Advised Fund, the Rotary Heart of America—Save Swaziland’s Children Fund. (Note: this fund is not connected with or sponsored by Zones 30-31 “Heart of America”.) The purpose of the fund is to receive tax-deductible donations to help build a vocational school, clinic, and community/business development center to serve children and families devastated — not just by the ongoing HIV epidemic, but also by the inability to access any health care in the isolated and impoverished communities of Maphiveni and Vuvulane, Swaziland. In collaboration with the Kudvumisa Foundation, a Swazi/U.S. non-profit, they seek to raise $400,000 for this project.

At the moment the Rehmeyers and Cheri’s immediate and urgent goal is to purchase an unused four-acre property with 30,000 square feet of buildings. It will be redeveloped to serve as a holistic medical clinic, vocational school and commercial center, that once-renovated, could become the clinic, school and development center. The property is up for sale and they still need $75,000 to acquire it. If you and your club or district are interested in supporting this project contact Cheri McDaniel at shadowtrace21@yahoo.com.

Director Karen stated “Cheri, Daran and their respective Rotary clubs illustrate once again the power of a few committed and inspired Rotarians to make a significant impact on improving the lives, in this case the HIV orphans of Swaziland.”
RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING ROTARY SERVICE PROJECTS

We tend to recognize Rotary achievements that are easy to quantify such as giving to the Rotary Foundation and increases in membership. One of our incoming district governors asked me recently if we could find a way, at the zone level, to recognize service projects. The diverse nature of service projects would make it nearly impossible to select a few for special recognition. We try to feature service projects in *The Heartbeat* and rely on our readers to send information about them to me or *Heartbeat* editor Jane Molloy.

However, there is a Rotary International award to recognize excellence in service projects: The Significant Achievement Award. One award can be given per district. If more than one club submits an application to the district, then a district committee selects one to be sent to Rotary International. *I urge our district governors to promote this award in their districts.*

The RI Significant Achievement Award recognizes club projects that have done the following:

- Addressed a significant problem or need in the local community (international service projects, no matter how worthy, are not eligible for this award)
- Involved most or all of the club’s members in personal rather than monetary service
- Been commensurate with the size of the club and its available resources
- Enhanced the image of Rotary in the community
- Been able to be emulated by other Rotary clubs
- Been active during the Rotary year for which the award is being given (though it need not have been initiated, and may have been completed, in the current Rotary year.) The deadline for district governors to send a nomination to RI is 15 March.

For the 2014-15 Rotary Year, five clubs in Zone 31 received the Significant Achievement Award for excellence in service projects and I am pleased to recognize them here. No clubs received the award in Zone 30.

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<td>Bossier City, LA</td>
<td>Bob Holeman</td>
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<td>6200</td>
<td>Crowley, LA</td>
<td>Ezora Proctor</td>
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New Rotary District/Club Tools

Give your Rotary flag or banner a new and professional look with our updated materials, available in the Brand Center. With eight options of colors and backgrounds to choose from, you can find the design that will best strengthen your club or district brand.

The Brand Center also offers everything you need to create communications with the Rotary look and tone. You can download Rotary’s logo -- or create your own club or district logo. And you’ll find editable templates for brochures, newsletters, PowerPoint presentations, fliers, and more.

It’s Official . . .

Director Karen says:

Greg Yank declared Rotary International Director-nominee

It’s official! Last month The Heartbeat carried the announcement of Greg’s selection for RI Director 2017-19 by the Zone 31 Nominating Committee, along with his profile. The official challenge period ended December 1, and now Greg is the official director-nominee who will succeed me on July 1, 2017. Congratulations Greg and Catherine!
Institute 2015 — More Memories

Photos by Donna Landry
## November Membership Stats

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| Zone 31   |          |            |                        |            |                        |                             |
| 1         | 5830     | 42         | 1,638                  | 43         | 1,641                  | 3                           |
| 2         | 6040     | 57         | 2,469                  | 57         | 2,467                  | (2)                         |
| 3         | 6060     | 55         | 2,231                  | 54         | 2,230                  | (1)                         |
| 4         | 6080     | 49         | 2,700                  | 49         | 2,732                  | 32                          |
| 5         | 6110     | 79         | 4,280                  | 79         | 4,322                  | 42                          |
| 6         | 6150     | 40         | 1,913                  | 40         | 1,947                  | 34                          |
| 7         | 6170     | 36         | 1,484                  | 36         | 1,513                  | 29                          |
| 8         | 6190     | 33         | 1,417                  | 33         | 1,437                  | 20                          |
| 1         | 6200     | 49         | 2,448                  | 49         | 2,508                  | 60                          |
| 9         | 6460     | 50         | 2,307                  | 50         | 2,315                  | 8                           |
| 10        | 6490     | 52         | 2,244                  | 51         | 2,232                  | (12)                        |
| 11        | 6510     | 48         | 1,549                  | 48         | 1,551                  | 2                           |
| 12        | 6520     | 48         | 2,342                  | 48         | 2,344                  | 2                           |
| 13        | 6540     | 52         | 2,178                  | 52         | 2,184                  | 6                           |
| Totals    |          | 690        | 31,200                 | 689        | 31,423                 | 223                         |

Total Both Zones: 1,302, 62,877, 1,294, 63,262, 385
### October TRF Giving Stats

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Past Rotary International Director Fred Hahn (Rotary Club of Independence, MO) and his wife Marge have been passionately engaged in Rotary's fight to end polio ever since they met renowned developer of the oral polio vaccine, Dr. Albert Sabin, at the 1985 Rotary International Convention in Kansas City. "Dr. Sabin told us 'Don't talk about eradicating polio: do it.' That sealed me on raising money for the cause," Fred said.

Fred and Marge have worked tirelessly to educate Rotarians about polio and help raise the funds needed to end this disease forever, including traveling to Ethiopia to participate in a National Immunization Day. In recognition of his dedication, Fred received the International Service Award for a Polio-Free World.

The Hahns have taken advantage of the IRA Charitable Rollover several times to donate retirement plan assets to support Rotary's initiative to end polio. This tax-advantaged way to give allowed the Hahns to maximize the impact of their contributions and achieve their goal of making a difference in the fight to end polio.

"Being able to make these gifts is rewarding. Both as a Rotarian and as a human being, I truly believe in President Ravindran's theme 'Be a gift to the world.' Marge and I try to live that." Rotary was honored to recognize the Hahns' generosity by inducting them into the Arch Klumph Society, which recognizes gifts of $250,000 or more.

From VISIONS, Charitable Estate & Financial Planning Ideas from The Rotary Foundation (40th Edition)
Assistant Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator Tim, and Amy Lee (District 6580 Indiana) traveled to Pakistan for National Immunization Days in November. Part two of Amy’s “My Karachi, Pakistan Adventure continues —

After giving polio immunizations in a Karachi clinic, our next opportunity to immunize children was at the main train station. The train station has a permanent site for giving Polio immunizations to children six years old and under who arrive on trains or that are boarding the trains for Islamabad. There were six health workers at the train station and I think the misconception is that we as Rotarians are going to be giving many polio immunizations. We are able to give immunizations, however our primary role is to support the health workers. Tim Lee and I colored our pinkies purple because this is an easy means of communicating with small children whose language we do not speak. Once a child showed us their purple pinky we proceeded to give them candy and bubbles. Candy and bubbles are a very small token, but it produced such excitement in these small children that they began bringing many other children to see us because they, too, wanted to show us their colored pinkies so that we would give them a treat.

As we were leaving the train station, we saw a young man sitting by the stairs and we immediately knew that he had been afflicted with Polio. You cannot imagine the emotions that you have until you are face to face with a fifteen year old young man (the same age as my youngest son) and he is homeless, sitting at the train station hoping to get $3-$4 per day so that he can eat. Through translators we spoke to him and discovered that he contracted polio at six months of age. He has no family and lives at the train station, has no opportunity for an education or employment. This encounter with this young man changed my entire perception of the poverty in Karachi Pakistan, how can it be that a fifteen year old is homeless with this disease and no one to care for him? My heart was breaking as we stood there talking with him. Our homeless population in Indiana can go to a homeless shelter to sleep and get a meal but in Karachi, Pakistan there are so many living in poverty that they have no place to go but to live on the streets.

While in Karachi we hoped to improve the lives of those we encountered, and I think this was accomplished when we got to “Play it Forward” by playing football with NFL. Some explanation is needed. We had the privilege while in Pakistan to support Mac Millar’s peace initiative, Play it Forward. Mac is a 13 year old Aussie who has a peace initiative to deliver soccer balls around the world. Mac says that two young children may speak a different language and be from different sides of the world but kicking a soccer ball back and forth is universal. We met Mac Millar in Australia at the Rotary International Convention and we were really interested in helping him with his initiative. Tim Lee e-mailed Mac Millar to ask if he wanted soccer balls to go to Pakistan, he was very excited for this to happen, but was very concerned for our safety. While in Pakistan we were able to give 100 soccer balls to underprivileged soccer clubs. We also had a Grand Football Match (they call it Football in Pakistan) between a local team of boys and girls, The Karachi Kickers and our friends company, National Foods Limited (NFL). Tim and I played on the NFL team and it was a very enjoyable time. Of course, the Karachi Kickers won the match and will always remember the huge trophy and the brand new soccer balls. We have one of the soccer balls that every player on the Karachi Kickers team signed and we will present it to Mac Millar when we see him at the January, 2016 World Peace Conference in Ontario, California.

I want to leave you with a few things to remember, all of the fears I initially felt subsided and I realized why my husband, Past District Governor Tim Lee is so passionate about The Rotary Foundation and all of the great works that it does not only in Pakistan but around the world. I am proud to be a Rotarian and consider Rotary to be my charity of choice and I hope that you do too. I hope that you will consider going to Pakistan to participate in a National Immunization Day so that you too can realize it is not a scary place. I also truly believe that if you go the children of Pakistan will steal your heart as they have stolen mine.
Peace Center — at work

Celebrating 10 years of building peace
(In Thailand)

Chulalongkorn is unique among the six Rotary Peace Centers in packing intensive coursework and field studies into a three-month program aimed at professionals already working in fields related to peace. In its first decade, the center has graduated 355 peace fellows from 69 countries with certificates of professional development.

Through its six peace centers, Rotary is developing leaders to become catalysts for peace in their communities and around the globe. The Chulalongkorn program offers a professional development certificate to individuals already working in fields related to peace.

RI Board and TRF Trustee Decisions

June, 2015 TRF Trustees action highlights on line now
October, 2015 Board Decisions on line now

BE INFORMED ABOUT OUR RI BOARD AND TRF TRUSTEE DECISIONS

Summary and minutes of recent Rotary International Board Decisions
Summary and minutes of recent Rotary Foundation Trustee Decisions
**Miles to End Polio team raises millions for polio eradication**

Rotary General Secretary John Hewko and eight RI staff members bicycled in El Tour de Tucson on 21 November. Together, they raised more than $2.9 million for Rotary’s fight to eradicate polio. When matched 2-to-1 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the funds the team raised will total nearly $9 million. It’s not too late to contribute [District Designated Funds](#) to the team. [Read more about the ride](#).

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**Rotary Voices**

**Rotary Scholar urges alumni to stay connected**

Kathleen Plaza has multiple reasons to be thankful for Rotary. After moving to Guam as a recent high school graduate, she joined the Rotaract Club of the Marianas, where she found friendship and opportunities to develop her leadership skills. As a Rotary Scholar now, she is impressed with the support she's received from her host club.

[Stay connected with Rotary alumni](#)
December is Disease Prevention and Treatment Month
January is Vocational Service Month

Important Dates

PETS Training Events for Heart of America Districts — 2016

February 24-28 — Lone Star PETS, Dallas, TX (D5830)
March 4-6 — Midwest PETS, Itasca, IL (D6460)
March 4-6 — Ole Man River PETS, Natchez, MS (D6190, D6200, D6800, D6820, D6840)
March 10-12 — Great Lakes PETS, Kalamazoo, MI (D6540)
March 10-12 — Mid-America PETS, Fort Smith, AR (D6110, D6150, D6170)
March 11-13 — All Ohio PETS, Columbus, OH (D6670, D6690)
March 12 — District 6560 PETS, Indianapolis, IN
March 12-13 — Land of Lincoln PETS, Effingham, IL (D6490, D6510, D6580)
March 18-20 — Mid-South PETS, Nashville, TN (D6740, D6710, D6760, D6780, D6860, D6880)
April 1-2 — Show Me PETS, Jefferson City, MO (D6040, D6060, D6080)
More Important Dates

DISTRICT CONFERENCES 2016

March 30-April 2 — District 6200 Conference, Lake Charles, LA (Governor Michael Hayes)
April 1-2 — District 6800 Conference, Oxford, MS (Governor Cary Vaughn)
April 7-10 — District 6840 Conference, Gulfport, MS (Governor John Cornwell)
April 8-9 — District 6540 Conference, Merrillville, IN (Governor Roger Sims)
April 8-9 — District 6580 Conference, Bloomington, IN (Governor Jim Bright)
April 21-23 — District 6820 Conference, Ridgeland, MS (Governor Barbara Travis)
April 21-23 — District 6880 Conference, Orange Beach, AL (Governor Michael Chambers)
April 22-23 — District 6560 Conference, Carmel, IN (Governor Mark Blade)
April 28-29 — District 6780 Conference, Pigeon Forge, TN (Governor Beth Stubbs)
April 28-May 1 — District 6670 District Conference, Northern Cincinnati, OH (Governor William Shula)
April 29-30 — District 6490 Conference, Normal, IL (Governor Surinder Sethi)
May 5-7 — District 6860 Conference, Huntsville, AL (Governor Pat Cross)
May 12-14 — Districts 6150 and 6170 Conference, Hot Springs AR (Governor Paul Ford and Governor Charles DeVore)
May 13-14 — District 6740 Conference, Prestonsburg, KY (Governor Cindy Legg)
May 20-21 — District 5830 Conference, location TBD (Governor Tom DeWitt)
June 10-11 — District 6710 Conference, Louisville, KY (Governor Michael Kull)
June 17-18 — District 6760 Conference, Franklin, TN (Governor William Jones)
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