



Every Rotarian

(Adapted from "The Raven" by Edgar Allan Poe)

By Brian King

Director of Membership Development, Rotary International
Previous - Director of Annual Giving at The Rotary Foundation



Once upon a Rotary year-y, while I pondered, growing a bit leery,
Over whether every Rotarian, would give \$100 or more.
My mind raced, now more wary, suddenly what I saw was terribly scary.
More so than ghosts or monsters or something rapping at my chamber door.
It was the image of a child, paralyzed, crawling on a dirt floor.
Only this and nothing more.

Ah, but this child I did not know, as she pained and suffered so.
Would not someone else see she was not left upon that dirty floor?
Rapidly my fear turned to sorrow for this child may have no tomorrow.
She was just another crawler, helpless and always to be poor.
Leaving it to someone else, leaves her on that dirty floor.
Nameless and alone for evermore.

More images now, my fear grew stronger; hesitating then no longer.
Poverty, illness, hunger and so many victims of conflict and war.
So many living a nightmare, with whom our good fortune we can share.
No water or food or one to care; no education, for millions no open door.
No opportunity; no bright future, neither nor
Darkness there and nothing more.

Who will help those in need; this desperate call who will heed?
"Sir," said I, "or Madam, truly your support I implore;
every Rotarian, everywhere, help end this chilling tale if you dare,
help those in great despair, in our backyard and on another shore
'O the ways you can help are so many, please do explore.
And change the life of a child--forevermore!

And every Rotarian, with no hesitation, responded with great consternation,
giving every year \$100 or even more.
And the children's eyes have all the seeming filled of hope; and dreaming
Their smiles now beaming, as Rotarians' generosity there was an outpour
And the lives of millions with so little to live for
shall be lifted--forever and evermore!

**HAPPY
HALLOWEEN!**

**EVERY
ROTARIAN
EVERY
YEAR**