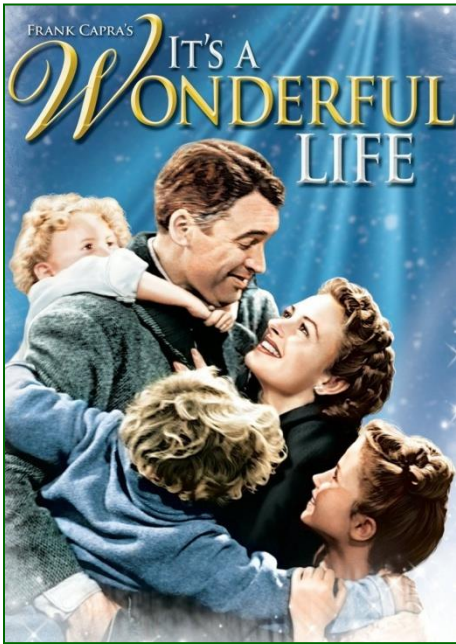


It is a Wonderful Life



One of my favorite things about the holiday season is watching *It's A Wonderful Life*. The movie shares with us two important messages: the importance of friends and the positive impact each of us makes on the lives of others.

At the end of the movie George Bailey finds a copy of the book *Tom Sawyer* that is a gift from his guardian angel Clarence who wrote in the book, "Remember, no man is a failure who has friends." Our membership in Rotary provides us with the opportunity to make special and lasting friendships with Rotarians in our clubs, districts, and throughout the world. It is because of these friendships we are able to work together *Doing Good in the World*.

The movie also provides a powerful message in that we all can make a difference in the lives of others. Even though George Bailey felt he was a failure and did not live the life he had dreamed of, he was provided the gift to see how his actions, no matter how simple or insignificant, made a difference in the lives of so many. What if it had been Paul Harris standing on the bridge and his guardian angel showed him what the world would be like if he had never been born. Paul would have seen that polio would still be prevalent in the world and that there would be more hunger, poverty, and unhealthy living conditions.

We are blessed that Paul Harris gave us the gift of Rotary, resulting in a global family of friends serving humanity throughout the world.

Bill Pollard

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Past District Governor 2008-09, District 7600