

## *"Why I Support The Rotary Foundation." A Testimony from a Dedicated Rotarian*

Story by Ed Kolybaba on Nov 26, 2022



As Foundation Month of Rotary International comes to a close, Helmut Hubert, a member of the Kelowna Sunrise Club shared a message which clearly illustrates why many of our clubs Rotarians financially support the work being done around the world through The Rotary Foundation.

Helmut introduces his message explaining how as a child he witnessed poverty and how a number of NGO's with good intention came to help, but as time moved forward this response was often to no avail.

*I was born and grew up in South America, Brazil and Ecuador. As a child and teenager I witnessed much poverty and misery in both those countries. I also saw as many NGO's came south in order to "help" the people. They*

*They certainly had good intentions but often their work was misguided as they parachuted in, did everything for the people that they tried to help, and then went back home. It didn't take long and all their work was lost because they didn't have any idea of how to help the people to help themselves. There was much waste without results.*

For many years, Helmut and his wife Ellen supported NGO's working in third world countries but they discovered that their financial support was often just used to support their existence.

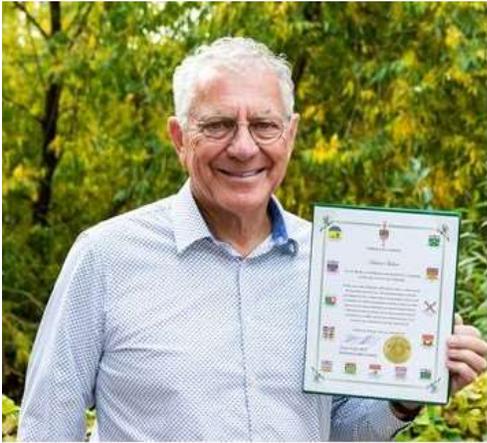
*(We) have financially supported a number of NGO's doing work in poor countries. For example, we would sign up to support children monthly with a certain organization only to start receiving requests for help every week. Even if we told them to remove us from their mailing lists, they just kept sending these requests. Then we started looking at their financial information finding that a large amount of our "support to the children" was going into running this huge machine.*

When Helmut became a Rotarian, he soon discovered how his financial support could actually make a profound difference in the lives of people around the world.

*When I joined Rotary in 2002, I discovered the Rotary Foundation. I was certainly sold with how things were run with much accountability, low administration cost and the way the money multiplies. I am pleased to say that I am a Paul Harris Fellow plus 10 and I have given this money with joy as I know it is well managed and goes where it is supposed to go. I also find that many business people that are Rotarians strongly support Foundation. If Rotary club members make it a point to support us as business people, we will in turn also be able to give more support to all Rotary endeavours.*

Helmut's generosity and care for those in need also makes a difference for people in need in our own community. While this care and support is offered generously for many not for profit

organizations in the Okanagan, his passion and focus is serving on the Board of Directors of Freedom's Door in Kelowna.



Recently Helmut was presented with a Parliament of Canada Certificate of Appreciation by Tracy Gray, MP, for his outstanding voluntary service with Freedom's Door and other organizations.