



## What is Rotary?

Officially, Rotary is defined as “**an organization of business and professional persons united worldwide who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world.**” Rotary is further defined in the Object of Rotary:

### Object of Rotary

The object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

- I. The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
- II. High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian’s occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
- III. The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian’s personal, business, and community life;
- IV. The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

Those words tell a profound story. They affirm that Rotary is a **SERVICE** organization. Rotarians are not in Rotary to promote their businesses or to gain social status, they are in Rotary for only one purpose: to serve.

### **What Rotary is NOT:**

- Rotary is **NOT** a political organization. It is international in scope. It does not support any candidates, political parties, political agendas, or forms of government. It is the only service organization with a permanent seat on the United Nations.
- Rotary is **NOT** a religious organization. Individual members are encouraged to support and contribute to activities and causes of their own belief in any way they see fit, but support of churches, religious education, and the like are not the place of Rotary.
- Rotary is **NOT** a fundraising organization for other entities. Every Rotary Club is expected to conduct its own “Rotary” projects in its community.
- Rotary is **NOT** myopic. “Service Above Self” means that Rotarians look beyond themselves, beyond their individual biases, beyond their individual businesses, and beyond their individual communities in their service efforts.

**ROTARY IS....SERVICE ABOVE SELF**