

November Newsletter – Be the Reason Someone is Thankful via The Rotary Foundation

Celebrating The Rotary Foundation: A Legacy of Service and Impact

As we celebrate Rotary Foundation Month this November, we take pride in celebrating the remarkable achievements and enduring legacy of The Rotary Foundation. Since its inception in 1917, with Arch C. Klumph's visionary proposal to establish an endowment for doing good in the world, The Rotary Foundation has grown into a powerful force for positive change globally.

Transforming Lives Through Service

The Rotary Foundation's mission is simple yet profound: to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty. Over the years, our foundation has spearheaded numerous initiatives that have transformed countless lives and communities.

Eradicating Polio: A Historic Achievement

One of the most notable accomplishments of The Rotary Foundation is its relentless pursuit of eradicating polio. Since the launch of the PolioPlus program in 1985, Rotary has contributed more than \$2.1 billion and countless volunteer hours to protect nearly 3 billion children in 122 countries from this crippling disease. Today, we stand on the brink of a polio-free world, with cases reduced by 99.9% since the initiative began.

Promoting Peace and Conflict Resolution

The Rotary Foundation is dedicated to promoting peace and preventing conflicts worldwide. Through the Rotary Peace Centers program, we've trained over 1,400 peace fellows who now serve as catalysts for peace in over 115 countries. These peacebuilders work in diverse roles such as education, law, health, and international relations, fostering understanding and resolving conflicts.

Basic Education and Literacy

Education is the cornerstone of personal and community development. The Rotary Foundation supports education through scholarships, vocational training, and the provision of learning resources. Our efforts to improve literacy and educational opportunities help empower individuals and lift communities out of poverty.

Disease Prevention and Treatment

Beyond polio, The Rotary Foundation tackles a range of health issues, including maternal and child health, HIV/AIDS, and malaria. Our projects provide access to essential medical services, clean water, and sanitation, significantly improving health outcomes and quality of life.

Growing Local Economies

Sustainable economic and community development is key to lasting change. The Rotary Foundation's projects include microcredit programs, job training, and agricultural initiatives that help communities become self-sufficient and resilient.

Providing Clean Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene: Access to clean water and sanitation is essential for health and well-being. Our Foundation supports projects that provide safe drinking water, improve sanitation facilities, and promote hygiene education in communities around the world.

Maternal and Child Health: Rotary focuses on improving maternal and child health by supporting initiatives that provide prenatal care, safe childbirth, and essential healthcare for mothers and children.

Protecting the Environment: Rotary is committed to environmental sustainability. Projects include reforestation, clean-up campaigns, and initiatives to promote sustainable practices and protect natural resources.

Your Contribution Makes a Difference

As we reflect on these incredible achievements, we also recognize that none of this would be possible without the unwavering support of Rotarians and friends like you. Every contribution to The Rotary Foundation fuels our mission and extends our reach, ensuring that we continue to make a tangible difference in the world.

Join Us in Celebrating and Contributing

This Rotary Foundation Month, we encourage you to get involved, spread the word, and contribute to our ongoing efforts. Together, we can continue to drive positive change and build a brighter future for generations to come. Be the reason someone is “thankful” this Holiday Season!

Thank you for your continued dedication and support of The Rotary Foundation!

Mark’s Magical Markers: How You Can Make a Difference

Maybe you’ve been considering how you can make a difference in the lives of those in need; people who need life-changing assistance; people around the world who you may never meet. Fortunately, there are several avenues of giving that are very effective in ensuring the great work of Rotary in the world continues well into the future.

Our very own Mark Maloney is Chair of the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation this year and has provided several great ways to be involved. Chairman Mark has challenged our District to lead by example by making a contribution to the **Annual Fund** and **Endowment Fund**. Another great opportunity is to join the **Polio Plus Society** by pledging a donation of \$100 per year to the Polio Plus Fund. Joining the **Paul Harris Society**, for those who commit \$1000 per year to the Foundation’s Annual Fund, provides a great way to make a significant impact. Finally, Rotary provides an online recurring giving program, **Rotary Direct**, that makes giving easy and manageable in budget friendly monthly installments. Ask your Rotary Foundation Chair about any of these opportunities, and help your Club achieve Mark’s goals of all our Clubs increasing their rolls by five in each of these programs this Rotary year. You can also reach out to our District Rotary Foundation Committee Chair, Holly Trawick, with any questions and to present a program on The Foundation and our impact in the District to your Club at an upcoming meeting: [Holly Trawick](#).

You can also explore the link to The Foundation site here, which provides a link for donation:

<https://www.rotary.org/en/about-rotary/rotary-foundation>

Purple Pinky Campaign Results

A big thanks to all our Clubs who participated in the Purple Pinky Campaign to End Polio Now this year! I would like to share the email our District received from the multi-district campaign chair... all of us should be very proud of this effort!

Hello District 6860 Leaders,

This year your district raised \$24,816.83, which is more than double what was raised last year (\$10,439 in 2023) and third highest among all participating districts. CONGRATULATIONS! Fully matched this is \$186,126.22, or the equivalent of 62k vaccinated children.

Yours in Service,

Margo

I would like to personally thank John Beard, our District Purple Pinky Campaign Chair and member of the Rotary Club of Shades Valley for leading our District in this great achievement. Well done everyone!

Global Grant Update - Dancing for Rain - Clean, Potable Water for Indigenous Tarahumara Families Phase 2 (H2H)

I would like to extend a well-deserved congratulations to the Rotary Club of Decatur Daybreak as they have secured all necessary qualifications for their global grant through the Foundation. This is a multi-year process representative of many hours of coordination with Rotary Clubs and organizations in the supported country of Mexico. Here is a brief rundown on their grant, and what they aim to achieve.

The main objective of the project is to provide potable, accessible water to 60 families in 12 communities in the Raramuri villages in the state of Chihuahua, Mexico. The Raramuri natives, also known as Tarahumara, live in small (<2500 people) isolated villages with a high prevalence of infectious diseases, chronic malnutrition, and infant mortality, all caused or exacerbated by the lack of clean water. The remoteness and scattered nature of these villages makes it impossible to provide water through drinking water networks, high mountain ranges make well drilling costly and not feasible, nor there exist other delivery options. The installation of rainwater collection, storage and purification systems is a viable option which would also ensure water during prolonged dry spells.

This project will directly impact these families in extreme poverty, giving them access to safe drinking water and healthy living conditions. By participating in the implementation of the project, the families develop technical masonry skills that can be deployed throughout their villages or outside. The women and girls, who currently travel long distances to obtain water,

can devote their efforts to community development, attending school, and improving their family's hygiene and education.

I am very humbled by what our Rotarians have achieved and what an amazing difference we are all able to make, when we combine our efforts for the good of the world. This Thanksgiving season, as we reflect on all we are thankful for, I am especially thankful that our great organization has a mechanism through The Rotary Foundation to enable all of us to impact the lives of others. Most of all, I am thankful for all of you, and your amazing dedication to humanity through Rotary. May all of you and your families have a very blessed Thanksgiving season this year.

Regards,
David

[David W. Allgood](#)

District Governor 2024-25
Rotary District 6860

Key Upcoming Events:

15 Dec 24: Last Day for Registration Discount (RI Convention, Calgary)
31 Jan 24: Operation Wipe Out (Eradication of Cervical Cancer) Summit – Birmingham, AL
9-13 Feb 25: International Assembly - Orlando, FL (DGE Only)
5 Feb 25: Foundation Dinner - Florence
20-21 Feb 25: Mid-Year Conference & Pre-PETS - Gardendale, AL
20-22 Feb 25: RYLA at US Space & Rocket Center
22 Feb 25: RLI - Central United Methodist Church
24 Feb 25: Birthday of Rotary
04 Apr 25: District Learning Assembly - Gardendale, AL
10-16 Mar 25: World Rotaract Week
20-22 Mar 25: MSPETS - Chattanooga, TN (PE & PN)
30 Apr 25: RI Convention - Last Day to Register or Cancel
2-3 May 25: Multi-District Conference - Chattanooga, TN
TBD : RLI - Vestavia Hills Methodist Church
21-25 Jun 25: Rotary International Convention - Calgary, Alberta - Register now for best price

RLI Session Dates:

22 Feb 25 - Central United Methodist Church, Decatur, AL
TBD 25 - Vestavia Hills Methodist Church, Vestavia, AL