

November is Foundation Month...Rotary is Humanity in Motion

November 2005

Dear Amigos,

As you know, my vocation and passion are helping others, literally, to see. My message to you this Foundation month is one of vision, a vision that *Every Rotarian* can ensure a better future for all through The Rotary Foundation, *Every Year*.

Close your eyes for a moment and try to imagine seeing things through the eyes of little girl from a poor village. After sleeping on a dirt floor, she rises from squalor only to forage for food in a nearby garbage dump. She drinks contaminated water and then is forced to use her little hands to labor 12 to 14 hours or more every day, manufacturing beautiful little dolls.

I wonder what this little girl sees when she looks at those dolls. Does she wonder who is going to play with them? Does she long to play with one herself? Does she dream of growing up to be beautiful like one of the dolls and wearing beautiful clothes? I wonder, will she live long or well enough to see that life can be beautiful? I wonder...

I also wonder why so many people choose not to see or do anything about the horrific things that are done to children like her all over the world. There are many people who are so blind as to allow such inhumanity to exist.

Fortunately my friends, Rotarians are not so blind. My faith in humanity is renewed when I see all of the good things that Rotary club members are accomplishing around the world, by helping children, helping families, and enabling those we help to help themselves and others.

Still, I wonder how many Rotarians have the clarity of vision to truly understand that it is our Rotary Foundation that is the conduit through which we help others and make significant change. The Rotary Foundation is our path to Humanity in Motion.

Through our literacy programs, we empower children to learn and rise up from poverty. Through our clean water projects, we make a difference so that children in poor villages no longer die of water-borne disease. Through our Ambassadorial Scholars and Rotary World Peace Fellows educational programs, we enlighten the next generation of world leaders to challenge the ravages of war and build bridges of peace and hope that link us all. These programs are made possible by our contributions to The Rotary Foundation.

This month, at your Rotary club, Foundation seminar, district event, club board meeting, wherever Rotarians gather, speak about our Rotary Foundation and encourage everyone to contribute – [Every Rotarian, Every Year!](#)

Foundation Month is not only about the money. It is about you and me taking *Service Above Self* seriously. It is about taking time to *Create Awareness* and *Take Action* by doing something to build goodwill and better friendships.

It is also about having a vision that enables all of us to see that something as simple as participating in *Every Rotarian, Every Year* with a contribution to our Rotary Foundation, can be a life-changing event of magnificent proportion in someone's life, in the lives of all children.

We continue to work towards eradicating polio. Why? Because we can. It is Rotary's gift to the children of the world. Yet, so many more needs remain.

Your contributions fuel our life changing programs. Please be generous this year. [Make your Annual Programs Fund gift today](#) and [contribute to a positive change](#).

During Foundation Month, make someone a Paul Harris Fellow or invite a friend to join Rotary so they, too, can share the vision of a more humane and peaceful world through The Rotary Foundation.

Your Amigo in Mexico City,

Frank Devlyn

The Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair, 2005-06

Past Rotary International President, 2000-01