

## Humanitarian Grants: Stewardship

October 2005

Dear Amigos,

As professional and business leaders in our communities, Rotarians understand the importance of stewardship. According to the *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*, stewardship is defined as the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care. This definition is very appropriate for Rotarians to keep in mind, particularly as we use grant funds from The Rotary Foundation of RI.

The Rotary Foundation Trustees recognize that the funds received from Rotarians around the world are voluntary contributions reflecting their hard work and dedicated support. These Rotarians have entrusted The Rotary Foundation with their contributions with the faith and understanding that they will be used effectively and for the purposes for which they were given. Therefore, the Trustees rely on the integrity of the Rotary clubs and the Rotarians engaged in project implementation to exercise proper fiscal management and ensure that funds are used effectively for the purposes for which they were given.

Recipients of grant funds should exercise the highest attention to the prevention of even the appearance that Rotary Foundation funds are being used in an improper manner, whether such appearance may be in the eyes of Rotarians or the general public. Those receiving grant funds are required to:

- assure competent and thorough oversight of the project
- conduct all transactions in accordance with The Four-Way Test
- submit detailed program and financial reports on a timely basis

By following these guidelines, Rotary clubs and districts participating in the Foundation's programs are demonstrating to donors, both past and future, the integrity of The Rotary Foundation. Keep in mind that a donor who understands that funds were used in an appropriate and responsible manner is more likely to give again to the Foundation.

Through my travels, I have witnessed firsthand the tremendous impact that Rotarians can have on the lives of those less fortunate than others. Through strict attention to stewardship, we will ensure future support of such endeavors.

Please Continue to Create Awareness and Take Action by Encouraging the Family of Rotary to Give Needed Personal Increased Donations to OUR ROTARY FOUNDATION

Your Amigo in Mexico City,

**Frank Devlyn**

The Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair, 2005-06

Past Rotary International President, 2000-01