



# ROTARY INSIDER



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## Quiet donation will echo through the years

**A** RECENT DONATION OF US\$1.2 MILLION has put The Rotary Foundation one giant step closer to reaching its goal of permanently endowing the Rotary Centers for International Studies in peace and conflict resolution. The gift, made by a Rotarian in District 3450 (Hong Kong; Macau; Mongolia) who would like to remain anonymous, is a landmark event in the development of the Rotary Centers.

“Rotarians are truly beginning to understand the power of the centers,” says Eddie Blender, chair of the Rotary Centers Major Gifts initiative, which aims to raise \$95 million by 2015. He called the donation, which will endow two Rotary World Peace Fellowships targeting candidates from Central Asia and the Middle East, “a marvelous example to help kick off the initiative.”

The Rotarian behind the donation, a longtime supporter of the Foundation and its educational programs, aims to make a lasting contribution to world peace. “At this time of strained intercultural relations, gestures of friendship and reconciliation directed toward the Middle East and Central Asia are in short supply,” the donor says, adding that Rotarians should focus their peace efforts there. Every year, up to

### How to donate

Learn more about the Rotary Centers Major Gifts initiative at [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org), or contact Eric Schmelling at 847-866-4458 or [eric.schmelling@rotary.org](mailto:eric.schmelling@rotary.org).

60 Rotary World Peace Fellows from around the world begin a two-year master's program in peace and conflict resolution at one of the six Rotary Centers, located at Duke University and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; International Christian University; Universidad del Salvador; University of Bradford; University of California, Berkeley; and University of Queensland. The fellowships cover tuition and other expenses for the fellows, who focus on areas related to peace and conflict resolution, such as international law, public health, and journalism.

The first fellows began their studies in 2002, and three classes have graduated since then. "As the program continues, a growing cadre of graduates will share a special bond

**MEET THE FELLOWS** The Rotary World Peace Symposium will take place in Salt Lake City 14-16 June in conjunction with the RI Convention. The symposium, which will feature a retrospective of the Rotary World Peace Fellowships program and panel discussions, will be held at the Salt Palace Convention Center and is open to all Rotarians, fellows, and alumni. The US\$250 registration fee includes the symposium, dinner on 14 June, and alumni registration for the convention. Rotarians and friends registered for the convention can attend for an additional fee of \$150 and join the dinner for \$50.

as Rotary World Peace Fellows," the donor notes. "One can envision them forming a network across national and organizational boundaries and all of them sharing the same lofty goals. What this group might accomplish, one can only imagine."

With the \$1.2 million gift – the largest outright gift ever received for the program – the donor hopes to encourage other Rotarians to show their support for the Rotary Centers.

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHAIR

Dreams of a better future

**NINETY YEARS AFTER** The Rotary Foundation was created, many Rotarians still fail to grasp its true value. Even worse, many clubs do not contribute to help further the goals of our Foundation, yet they do not hesitate to reap its benefits.

Our Rotary Foundation has been described as the "broadest and most successful single program ever undertaken within the world of Rotary." The Foundation is so much more than just money, honors, or fancy titles. The essence of the Foundation – practical ideals in action – has proved to be a positive force in the lives of millions of people. Through our Foundation, you and I can achieve goals that we couldn't achieve alone. Through our Foundation, borders are no obstacle, and we can build a better world by belonging to something greater than the sum of its parts. As someone once said: "What we do for ourselves dies with us. What we do for others and the world remains and is immortal."



During my term as RI president in 1996-97, I was in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, inaugurating a Rotary Foundation-supported project to provide Braille printers to a school for blind children. Surrounded by the students, I wrote two or three sentences on the computer and, taking one child by the hand, placed his finger on the print key. The first page came out of the Braille printer. The boy who had given the print command quickly grabbed the page and started reading with his fingers. A smile lit up his face as he lifted his head and said to me, "Now I really will be able to become a writer!"

The boy had lost his sight, yet he was a child of vision. And it was The Rotary Foundation that gave him – and millions of others – the chance to make the dream of a better future come true.

**Luis Vicente Giay**  
Foundation trustee chair

ROTARY FAREWELLS

In memoriam

**W**ITH DEEP REGRET, we report the deaths of the following Rotarians who served RI as district governors: **G. Loyd Collier**, Nacogdoches, Texas, USA, 1979-80; **William T. Ridgeway**, Flora, Ill., USA, 1982-83; **Les Faludy**, Toronto-Don Mills, Ont., Canada, 1983-84; **Koji Ohashi**, Sapporo East, Japan, 1988-89; **Egil Dalen**, Porsgrunn, Norway, 1992-93; **Louis Harlan Pfaff**, Fort Dodge, Iowa, USA, 1994-95; **Trevor Powell**, Reigate, England, 2001-02; and **George Willard Wolf**, Normal, Ill., USA, 2002-03.

UNITED NATIONS

Partners for peace

**M**ORE THAN 1,200 ROTARIANS from 42 countries gathered in New York City to learn how to meet humanitarian needs around the world by working more effectively with UN agencies.

The annual Rotary-UN Day, held on 4 November, featured panels on literacy, water, health, and hunger. Speakers included officials from the United Nations and its agencies, who encouraged collaboration and praised Rotary's work with UNICEF and the World Health Organization in the global effort to eradicate polio. Since 1985, Rotary has contributed more than US\$600 million to bring about a polio-free world.

Keynote speaker **Margareta Wahlstrom**, a top UN official, outlined the world's leading humanitarian priorities and said \$1.5 billion is needed to address the crisis in Darfur, Sudan. "The brutality is almost beyond belief," she said. She also cited problems related to global warming, such as an island in the

"Gifts made in the form of a permanent endowment will continue contributing to the world that your grandchildren and their grandchildren will inherit," the donor says.

In October, **Blender**, a past district governor, was appointed chair of the Rotary Centers Major Gifts initiative, and **John Germ**, past RI vice president, was appointed vice chair. They will work to meet the fundraising goal of \$95 million. The initiative now stands at roughly \$15 million in gifts and commitments.

"We want to raise enough funds to completely endow the centers," **Blender** says. "We need people who feel strongly and are able to give significant financial support." The Rotary Centers, he notes, are ideally positioned to fulfill the mission of The Rotary Foundation: advancing understanding, goodwill, and peace.

"Your investment in the program," he says, "will live forever to help change the world."

