



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

RGHF's

OUR FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

A Newsletter for Rotary Leaders • A monthly feature

Issue 235 • November 2021

"We should not live for ourselves alone, but for the joy in doing good for others."

Arch Klumpp, founder of The Rotary Foundation

NOVEMBER IS



THE ROTARY FOUNDATION MONTH

Photo by Alyce Henson. © Rotary International. Design layout by Gilbert Thien.

"We can all make a difference in the lives of others in need, because it is the most simple of gestures that make the most significant of differences."

Miya Yamanouchi

The
Rotary
Foundation



EVERY
ROTARIAN
EVERY
YEAR

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Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

Some might be familiar with the ancient Indian epic "Mahabharata" where the main story revolves around two branches of a family - the *Pandavas* and the *Kauravas*. A key character in this epic is *Karna*, who is renowned as the greatest donor ever. There are many stories of *Karna*'s generosity.



Image Source: Internet

In one such story, on one typical rainy day *Lord Krishna* (one of the most widely revered and most popular of all Indian divinities) disguised himself as a sage and visited *Yudhishtira* (eldest of the *Pandavas*) asking him for dry wood. It being rainy season there was no chance of getting dry wood so the sage was turned down by *Yudhishtira* with the reason that he wishes to help but the prevailing conditions are not in favour to do so. To show him how *Karna* would handle the situation, both went to *Karna* in the disguise of sages and demanded the same thing: dry wood. *Karna* too could have given the excuse of rain, instead he went inside the palace and cut down the door frames made of very good quality wood and handed the sages the pile of wood.

While we might not gain the recognition, as *Karna*, of being the greatest donor, each of us has the opportunity of Doing Good in the World by contributing to The Rotary Foundation. If we haven't as yet, this Foundation month is the best time to make our commitments to TRF.

Another, slightly longer, story of *Karna* can be found at: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/unheardshepherd/why-is-karna-referred-to-as-the-daanveer/>

This story reminded me of the amazing role that The Rotary Foundation has been playing for over 100 years: ensuring that every donation is put to the right use. As Rotarians, it is our responsibility to support Our Foundation through our generosity and motivate all around us to contribute.

Rotary Regards,



Jeetendra Sharma

Editor in Chief – RGHF's Our Foundation Newsletter

Trustee Chair's Message

When people ask me what The Rotary Foundation is, I tell them it's the heart of Rotary. You may have heard before that Rotary has an intelligent heart. The Foundation combines our emotional response of compassion with pragmatic action. With both heart and brains, you can change the world.

So, what does the Foundation mean to you? November is Rotary Foundation Month, but do you really know our Foundation?

First, it truly is our Foundation. The Rotary Foundation doesn't belong to me or the other 14 trustees, nor to the RI Board of Directors, nor to the RI president. It belongs to each Rotarian around the world.

And it's there for all of us to change the world. We save mothers and children because we have compassion, and we know how to plan. We provide clean water and sanitation where they're needed to those who need them, because we build strategies based on a community's needs. We combine support for peace, education, and economic stability for at-risk communities with an ability to manage big projects.

Giving to the Foundation is smart, too, because in doing so, you multiply the value of that gift. How many other foundations can you think of that identify the projects, fund them, and run them on the ground themselves? Ours is the only one I know. And we get it all done at such a relatively low administrative cost. This is one reason Charity Navigator consistently gives the Foundation a four-star rating.

I sometimes get asked a question: How much should I be giving to the Foundation? Each year, make a gift of what you can afford to give. For some, that is \$100, and for others, more. What's most important is that you give something, because each generous gift helps us meet the increased demand we're seeing from members for global grants and our other programs.

This year, we want to raise \$50 million for PolioPlus, which will be matched 2-to-1 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, for a total of \$150 million. If every Rotary club contributed just \$1,500, we would surpass this goal. We have other goals as well — for the Annual Fund, the Endowment Fund, and outright gifts — adding up to a grand total of \$410 million.

We will get there if we set our hearts — and minds — to it. But remember, it's not about the money; it's what the money can do.

There's a saying that goes, "I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples."

The Foundation is that stone, so let us turn ripples into great waves with it, using our hearts and our minds.



John F. Germ
Trustee Chair 2021-22

Discovering the impact of Rotary grants in Zimbabwe

By Carolyn Schrader, Rotary Club of Denver Mile High, Colorado, USA

When I first joined Rotary, I was encouraged by another member to join in sponsoring a \$14,000 AIDS awareness grant in Harare, Zimbabwe. I helped raise funds and worked with the Harare Rotarians to write the grant completed in 2005. But my connection to Zimbabwe lasted much longer.

As I was writing the grant report, I realized I had no idea what had really happened because the grant activity was in Zimbabwe and I was in Denver. I needed to go see the project. That was perhaps one of the most fateful decisions I ever made.

Along with volunteers for the training organization that had designed the program, I went to Zimbabwe, starting a love affair with Rotary grant projects. I learned more about sustainable projects, and why Rotary is encouraging members to focus on increasing impact. (download the [Increase our Impact white paper](#))



Carolyn Schrader works with local Rotary members in Zimbabwe on an economic development project

I saw so much need that I started a grant for \$330,000 for economic development. We trained over 3,000 women in basic economic skills during a four-year period.

The structure of that particular grant was powerful, sustainable, and well organized. I could see the level of commitment that Rotary had made to enable members to actually implement life-changing grants. I visited the project 21 times over the next nine years and saw how truly transformative the process can be. When we interviewed the women, they said again and again how much the project changed their lives. They said "I never thought that I could save money."

And that was precisely the first thing that we taught in the training: how to save money. The women created groups of 10 or 12 people, and they would commit to saving, for example, a dollar a week. Everybody in the group would come to the weekly meeting and they would bring their money and put it in a common jar or a box.

After several weeks, when they had accumulated enough money to make it worthwhile, the group would start to give loans. The women would complete an application and describe what they were going to use the money for.

They could add the loan to their savings and use that money to improve their businesses. They began to make money because they had saved money. They went from being poor, not only economically, but also in spirit, to being empowered.



Cultural learnings

During my visits it became obvious that, even with the training material, there were areas in which the women, on their own, said “No, we’re not going to do it that way. We’re going to do it a different way.”

The first time I encountered this I thought their way was not working. We’re going to have to fix that. That was the first time I really understood that if you want this project to be sustainable, the community has to own this project. It’s their project and they demonstrate that by doing it in a different way consistent with their culture and their experience.

In one instance, they provided money for funeral expenses to a woman who had a family member pass. My first reaction was, well, that money is not going to be repaid. But to them, the woman’s need superseded the group’s collective needs.

And that was an insight. If they change it, then they’re owning it — and they’ll keep using it as long as it benefits them. I had to see that what they were doing was owning the project, bit by bit.

Community-driven change

I always say that the most important element in a global grant are the local Rotary members. Rotary requires that a global grant start with the community identifying needs. And that’s where local Rotary members shine. They meet with the community, hear their needs, and begin to create a work plan. Because they’re part of the culture and know local customs, they’re able to hear and understand the community and its needs.

After that, a committed team is formed of Rotary members on the ground, local community members who believe in the project plan, and international members who support the project by fundraising and site visits (even virtually.) Grant funds and money from members and supporting organizations create the perfect end product: a sustainable outcome that belongs to the community and creates lasting positive change.

Rotary Grants are not the same as sending money to pay school fees. Helping a community help themselves is one of the most satisfying things that a person can do. I am so proud to be a part of Rotary and to have seen the impact that Rotary can make.

About the author: *Carolyn Schrader is a member of the Cadre of Technical Advisors and lives in Denver, Colorado. She is a retired mathematician, actuary, and a 25-year member of the Rotary Club of Denver Mile High. She was the international sponsor for the Community Empowerment in Zimbabwe project implemented in 2009-2013, followed by two economic development global grants. Schrader has made presentations worldwide in-person and on Zoom about best practices for global grants.*

Source: Rotary Voices

Three generations of Rotarians working to abolish nuclear weapons

By Dr. Ann Frisch, Chair, Rotary Action Group for Peace Nuclear Weapons Education Subcommittee

Rotary is again making history by unilaterally disarming from nuclear weapons. In April, The Rotary Foundation voted to adopt a policy that:

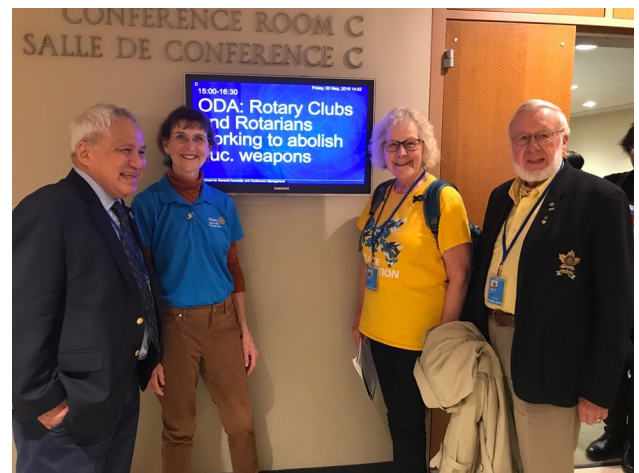
"[Rotary International/TRF] will avoid investing in companies that have systematically failed to protect the environment, human rights, workers, or prove unwilling to engage in a meaningful process of change and will typically avoid investment in companies with egregious environmental profiles, direct involvement with severe human rights abuses, pervasive or long-standing patterns of discriminatory behavior, a record of not addressing labor issues, and companies that derive significant revenue from producing, distributing, or marketing firearms, tobacco, pornography, or military weapons systems, cluster munitions, anti-personnel mines, and nuclear explosives."

It is seemingly a small step for Rotary International to endorse the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). Rotary has already made policy to do what the 56 nations that are states parties have begun: to get out of the nuclear weapons business. Ratification means that the commitment to never produce, manufacture, host, store, transport, possess, use or threaten...or assist in any way (including funding and financing). These countries have also committed to providing environmental remediation and assistance to victims.

The TPNW is modeled after other treaties that have been successful the elimination of weapons of mass destruction: these treaties (including those on chemical and biological weapons anti-personnel mines, and cluster munitions) have stigmatized investments in these weapons and made them immoral.

Last month, in another bold step forward, Rotary International President Shekhar Mehta spoke at the UN Summit on with UN Undersecretary General Izumi Nakamitsu and President of the International Committee for the Red Cross Peter Maurer. Ms. Nakamitsu acknowledged Rotary's divestment of nuclear weapons in pointing out the historical significance of Rotary in peacemaking. In response to her question to President Shekhar Mehta on what else Rotary could do, he responded "Advocacy, advocacy, and advocacy. That's what we had to do for polio."

<https://www.ippnw.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Quotes-from-Shekhar-Mehtas-speech-9-30-21-.docx.pdf>



Left to right, Dennis Wong, Dr. Ann Frisch, Dr. Frances Jeffries, and Dr. Richard Denton, with first Rotarian presentation at the United Nations Nuclear Nonproliferation Preparatory Committee

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Shekhar Mehta acknowledged the work of Rotarians already working on this cause, RAGFP nuclear weapons program, the (Rotarian) Nuclear Weapons Strategy Group, and Rotarian World Free of Nuclear Weapons.

Here are some of them:

The Rotary Group for Peace endorsed the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in 2018 and created a subcommittee to move forward with education around the TPNW and the peril of nuclear weapons.

A seminal event in Delhi in March 2018 was organized by Namrata Suri, D 3011 Peace Chair, Delhi Midwest. One hundred fifty people came to the dinner and lecture by Dr. Ira Helfand. This event followed the breakout sessions by Japanese Survivors at the Vancouver Peace Conference, including Midore Nakamae, Jiro Kawatsuma, Hiroko Seki, and Steve Yoshida.

Professor Tom Sauer, University of Antwerp, Belgium, was awarded the Rotary Alumni Award at the Hamburg Rotary International Convention for his research on nuclear weapons threat. *The Rotarian* has featured his work <https://www.rotary.org/en/qa-tom-sauer>. Prof. Sauer is engaged with Rotary Clubs in Belgium in educating youth on the peril of nuclear weapons.

Just prior to Hamburg RI Convention, four Rotarians were civil society observers at the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) Preparatory meetings. The Rotary Action Group for Peace was accredited by the United Nations and appointed Dr. Ann Frisch, Dr. Frances Jeffries, Dennis Wong, and Richard Denton, MD. (see picture). Nine Rotarians will attend if civil society observers are included at the postponed NPT Review. Rotary civil society observers from RAGFP may be going to Vienna, Austria, for the first meeting of the TPNW states parties.

In 2020, Helen Peacock's presentation "Can Rotary Be the Tipping Point For World Peace" went viral, with 20 events across the planet, and Dr. Ira Helfand got a standing ovation at the Rotary Peace Conference in Ontario California.

But abolition of nuclear weapons by Rotarians did not begin with this moment. Jiro Kawatsuma (RC Tokyo) told *The Rotarian* his story of being at Hiroshima, a witness to the devastation, and survivor. <https://www.rotary.org/en/rotarian-stories-2017> Rotarians Ira Helfand, MD (RC WE Rotary of International Peace), Nirmal Chandra Mathur (RC Delhi Midwest), Al Jubitz (RC Portland), and Winslow Myers (RC Damariscotta-Newcastle), were participants in the movement for abolition in the 1980s and 90s when public pressure encouraged world leaders Presidents Ronald Reagan and Michael Gorbachev dismantle 50,000 nuclear weapons, Soviet and US soldiers working side by side in harmony. Rotarians Nobel Peace Prize laureates are Ira Helfand, MD, Ranjith Jayasekera, MD, and Richard Denton, MD, and Honorary Rotarian Tilman Ruff, Rotary Club of Melbourne, MD. Rotarian Jesus (Gary) Domingo led The Philippine United Nations Office until being appointed Ambassador to New Zealand.

The nuclear issue has been present at the United Nations since it was chartered in 1945 Paul-Henri Spaak, Rotary Club of Brussels, was the first President of the General Assembly, and in 1946 presided over the first resolution of that body: nuclear weapons. Rotarians were involved in the creation of the



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United Nations and in the formation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which guarantees the “right to life, liberty, and security of person.”

Addressing the role of nuclear abolition in Rotary, RI President Shekhar Mehta, Ambassador for Rotarians working for nuclear abolition, said *“My personal position is that Rotary leaders should begin the hard work of convincing fellow Rotarians thatwe can take stronger positions for nuclear disarmament while remaining non political in our approach as organizations like the Red Cross has already done”*.

You can join Shekhar Mehta and Director Kamal Sanghvi, and Rotarian Ambassador from the Philippines to New Zealand Jesus (Gary) Domingo, former Rotary Peace Center Director Marianne Hanson, and many more in signing the Japanese Survivors’ (Hibakusha) appeal, which now lists 573 supporters <https://rotarians.peacoinstitute.org>

Our working group has 50 Rotarians, Rotary Peace Fellows, and Rotaract, working across the global with major peace organizations. For more information or to connect with this Rotarian movement, contact RAGFPsubcommitteeNWE@gmail.com

Notable quotes from Rotary President Shekhar Mehta's speech:

“Nuclear disarmament is an issue that affects all of humanity. It is important that Rotarians have taken action to raise awareness about this.”

“If only all of this money that is being spent on nuclear arms was directed to positive peace issues, what a wonderful world we could have.”

“Political and social pressure does work, and it has worked to limit the future acquisition of nuclear weapons by other states. And so it is very important that such discourses keep happening.”

“My personal position is that Rotary leaders should begin the hard work of convincing fellow Rotarians thatwe can take stronger positions for nuclear disarmament while remaining non political in our approach as organizations like the Red Cross have already done”

“There is so much Rotarians can do. We fully encourage our members to get involved in efforts to raise awareness and to inform fellow Rotarians of the scientific facts in support of nuclear disarmament....so we can reach our goal of disarmament”



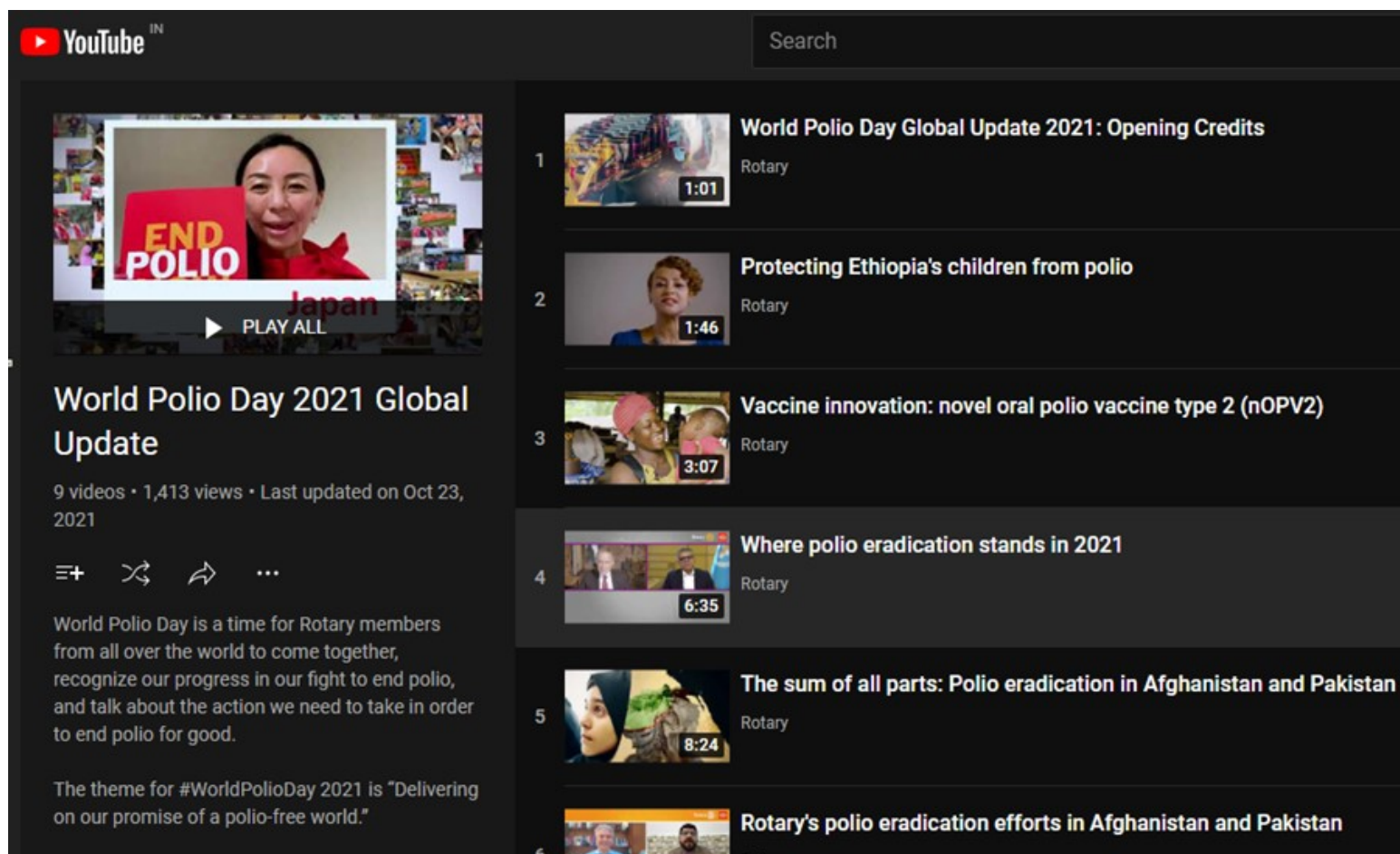
Q & A session:

Q: “What other steps can we take, what can we learn from the polio journey to help in the effort to eliminate nuclear weapons?”

Shekhar Mehta: “Advocacy, advocacy, advocacy. That’s what we had to do for polio.”

Rotary's goal of ridding the world of polio is within reach, global health experts said during the **2021 World Polio Day Online Global Update** on 24 October, 2021.

The 30-minute program, “Delivering on our Promise of a Polio-Free World,” provided encouraging information about the progress and remaining challenges in the fight to end polio.



Click image to watch the videos



**When God blesses you
financially, don't raise
your standard of living...**



**Raise your
standard of giving!**



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