



ROTARY BASICS

Course online from Rotary.org



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Lesson 1 of 11

WELCOME TO ROTARY!

You have joined a network of 1.2 million members who share your passion for making a difference. As a member, you'll not only have opportunities to make lasting change in communities around the world, but you'll also grow personally and make lifelong friendships along the way.

Watch the video below to learn about opportunities you'll have to connect and make a difference through Rotary.

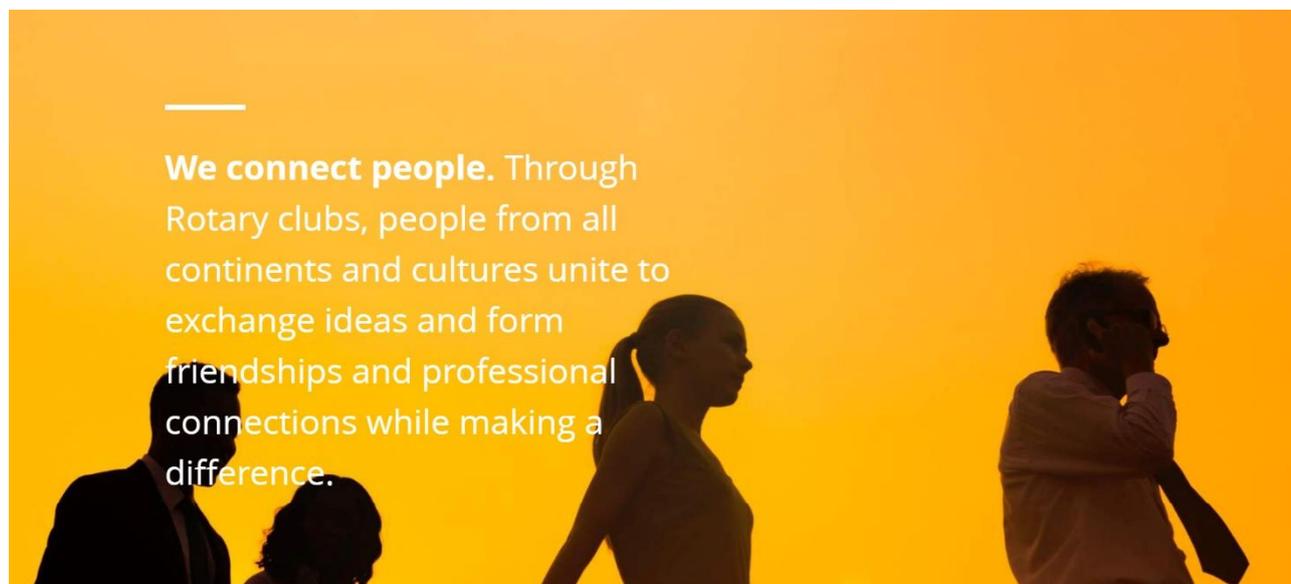


Video "Welcome to Rotary" <https://youtu.be/Nn1CiifeNp0>

OUR IMPACT

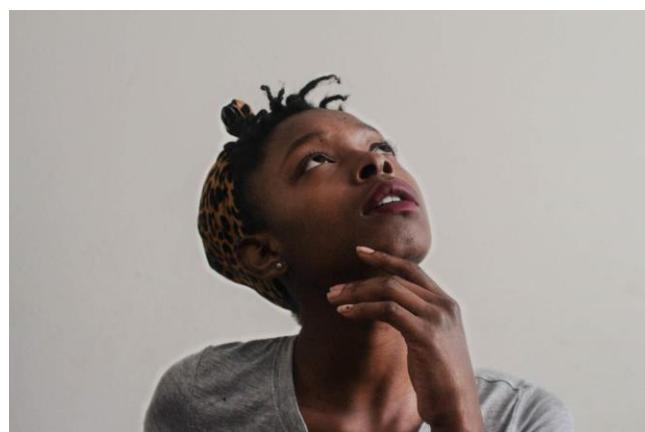
When we pool our resources, talents, and passion, we can do so much more together than we can do alone.

Scroll down to read about the impact we make when we join together with other Rotarians.



We think differently

Our members' diverse and multidisciplinary perspectives help us see challenges in unique ways. Members use their leadership and expertise to address social issues – and find unique solutions.



Each member brings a unique set of experiences, talents, and expertise to tackle issues.



By sharing ideas and perspectives, members practice leadership skills and solve problems together.

We transform ourselves

Through Rotary, our members are exposed to new thoughts, professions, and opportunities to broaden their perspectives. From weekly meetings and club projects to fundraisers and networking events, our members develop skills that help make them better individuals, community leaders, humanitarians, and internationalists.



We solve problems. No challenge is too big for us. We have immunized 2.5 billion children against polio and will continue to immunize them until we have eradicated the debilitating disease.



Volunteers around the world plan and implement service projects to improve their communities.

We transform communities

Each day, our members pour their passion, integrity, and intelligence into humanitarian projects that have a lasting impact. We persevere until we deliver real, long-term solutions to the issues our communities face.

Each year, we dedicate 16 million volunteer hours and over 1,500 grants to improving quality of life for others.

There are many ways you can get involved in Rotary to connect with your club, your community, and the world. To get the most from your Rotary experience, get involved in ways that align with your own interests and passions.

Below are some ideas for getting involved in your club, your community, and the Rotary world. Look at each of them and drag them into the right category.

(a) Club

(b) Community

(c) World

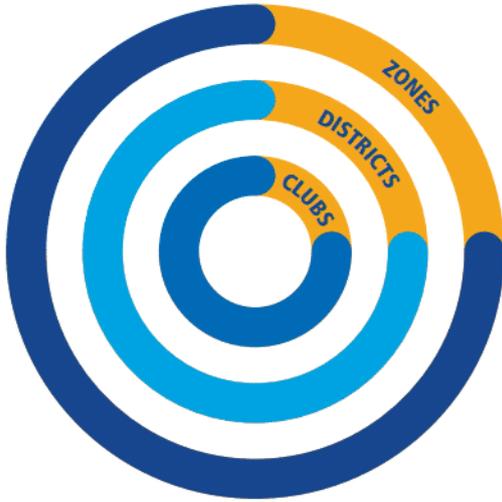
- 1) Join a Rotary Fellowship or Rotarian Action Group (global interest groups)
- 2) Support a program for young leaders in your town or city.
- 3) Participate in a local service project by volunteering time or giving funds.
- 4) Start a Rotary Community Corps (a group of volunteers who assist clubs).
- 5) Participate in a National Immunization Day (NID) to help eradicate polio.
- 6) Mentor, or be mentored by, a fellow member.
- 7) Organize a club event, for example, a fundraiser or social gathering.
- 8) Assess the needs in your community by conducting focus groups or interviews.
- 9) Participate in an international service project.
- 10) Become a club leader. (Each club has a president and other leadership roles.)
- 11) Plan a club meeting, including the topics to discuss and other agenda items.
- 12) Host a Rotary Youth Exchange student from another country.

Answers			
1-c	2-b	3-b	4-b
5-c	6-a	7-a	8-b
9-c	10-a	11-a	12-c

Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change — across the globe, in our communities and in ourselves.

Rotary International's vision statement

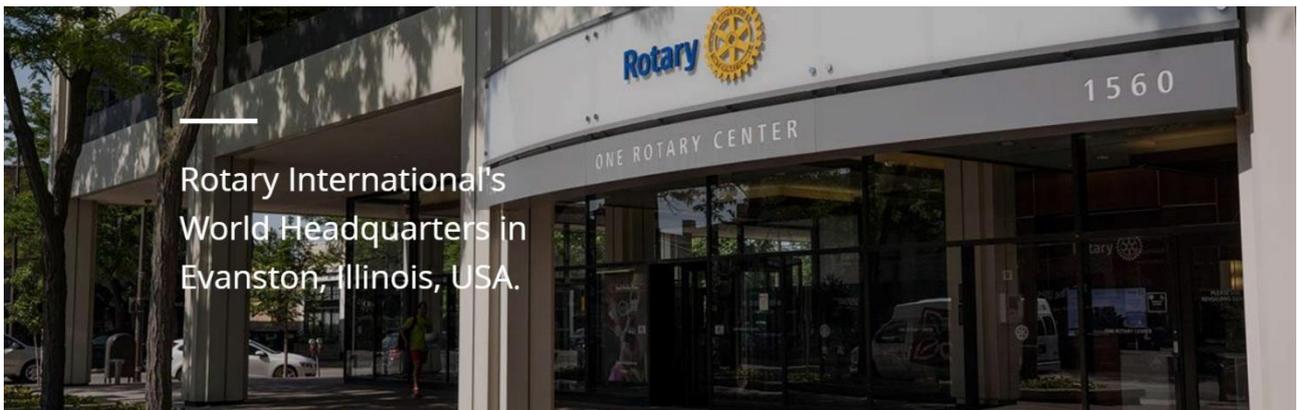
OUR ORGANIZATION



Members, clubs, districts, zones ...

Rotary is made up of its incredible members all over the world. Members are called Rotarians. They belong to clubs that have leaders that change every year. Clubs make up districts, which make up a larger area called a zone. Rotary's clubs for leaders ages 18-30 are called Rotaract clubs, and their members are Rotaractors. Rotaractors often partner with Rotarians on service projects in their communities.

There are over 35,000 Rotary clubs grouped into about 530 districts. These districts are organized into 34 regional zones.



Rotary International's World Headquarters in Evanston, Illinois, USA.



The office of the RI president at One Rotary Center in Evanston, Illinois, USA. The president serves a one-year term during which she or he presides over the RI Board of Directors.



Rotary International offices around the world

Our six other offices are in New Delhi, Paramatta, São Paulo, Seoul, Tokyo, and Zurich. Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland (RIBI) is an administrative territorial unit of Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland.

Getting involved

You can get involved at any level — club, district, or international — in ways that match your interests and skills. Here are a few examples of how you can apply your expertise while doing good and growing in the process.



District events present opportunities to meet members from other clubs.



Our international network offers opportunities to serve and to connect with others around the globe.

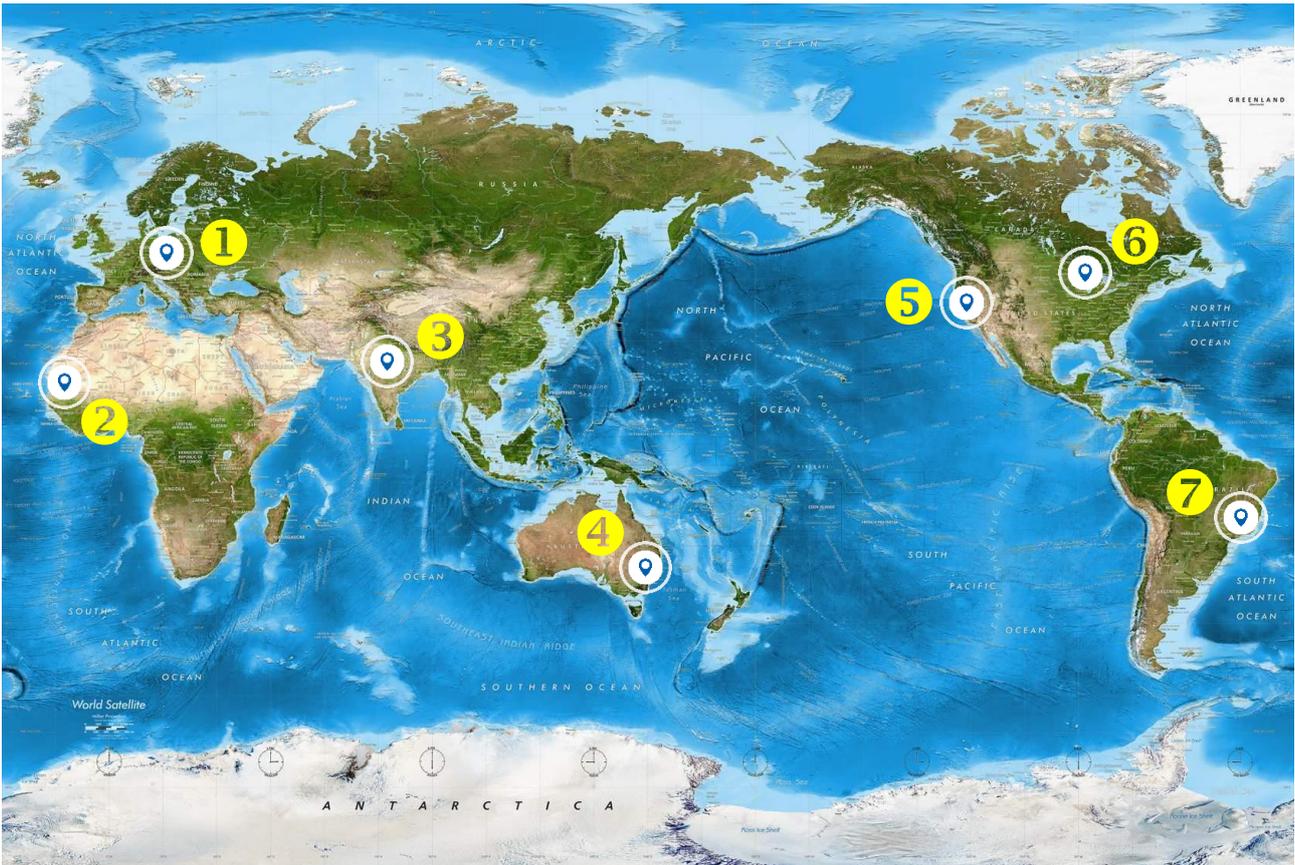


Taking on leadership roles can help you develop professional skills.

OUR MEMBERS

Each one of our members has a unique perspective shaped by their experiences, skills, interests, and culture. This is what personalizes their Rotary experience, and with time, crafts their Rotary story. By sharing your skills and perspectives with Rotary, you influence your club experience, as well as those around you.

Meet some other Rotary members by clicking on the pins below.



1) Michael Bulla

Michael Bulla collects money while riding on a PolioPlus bike tour through Munich, Germany. He and another district governor at the time cycled along the border of their newly formed districts to raise money for polio eradication.

2) Rose Meda Donkor

Rose Meda Donkor discusses the budget for an event during a meeting of the Rotary Club of Sunyani East in Sunyani, Ghana.



3) Past RI President Kalyan Banerjee

Kalyan Banerjee, 2011-12 RI President, and his spouse, Binota, visit a school in India. It is one of the many schools started and supported by Rotary clubs in and around Vapi.



4) Peter Agar and Geoff Vallance

Peter Agar (left) and Geoff Vallance, of the Rotary Club of Lower Blue Mountains, New South Wales, Australia, prepare food for the club's barbecue booth at the monthly Rotary Market in Glenbrook, Australia

5) Melissa Cross and Joey Vaesen

Melissa Cross, a member of the Rotary Club of San Francisco Evening, California, USA, and Joey Vaesen, a member of the Rotaract Club of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, take part in a service project in California to plant a small urban farm, improve kitchen facilities, and prepare outdoor spaces for health classes for the local Boys and Girls Club



6) Jennifer E. Jones

Jennifer E. Jones, of LaSalle, Ontario, in Canada, is president and CEO of Media Street Productions, Inc. She actively participates on several boards in her community. She has served in many Rotary leadership positions, including as a director and president's representative.

7) Monica Moretti

Monica Moretti, president of the Rotary Club of Pilar Norte. Buenos Aires, Argentina, explains items in personal hygiene kits for the Clean Hands project, which teaches hygiene practices and disease prevention to young children.



Criteria for being a Rotarian

The criteria for being a Rotarian are simple:

- Be an adult who demonstrates good character, integrity, and leadership.
- Have a good reputation within your business or profession, or community.
- Be willing to serve in the community or around the world.



Visit [Rotary.org/join](https://rotary.org/join) to refer a potential Rotarian.

If you know someone who would enjoy being a member, invite them to a club meeting, activity, or social event. If your club isn't a good option for them, refer them to another club by visiting [Rotary.org/join](https://rotary.org/join).



**“If you have the love of your fellow men in your hearts,
my friends, you are a potential Rotarian.”**

Paul Harris, Rotary's founder, 1933

OUR VALUES

Core values



Service

Rotary values Service Above Self. Here, a volunteer plants mangrove trees as part of a project by Rotaractors and Rotarians to restore the ecosystem and protect against hurricanes in the Bahamas.

Leadership

Rotary values developing leadership skills and using those skills to do good in the world. Here, Rotaractors at the Rotary International Convention in Toronto participate in a discussion about the future of Rotary.



Fellowship

Rotary brings together people who are inspired by their desire to give back and make a difference. In doing so, they form lasting friendships. Here, two members enjoy each other's company at the Rotary International Convention.



Diversity

Rotary values diverse cultures, experiences, and perspectives. Here, Rotary members participate in a Young Professionals Summit.



Integrity

Rotary values integrity as a characteristic of good leadership. Here, a Rotary member from Sri Lanka and one from Germany discuss their project to rebuild a maternity hospital.



OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Avenues of Service

We channel our commitment to service through five Avenues of Service, which are the foundation of club activities.

- **Club Service** focuses on making clubs strong. You serve the club when you take on a leadership position, foster relationships between members, or contribute to developing and working toward your club's goals.
- **Vocational Service** calls on all Rotarians to work with integrity and contribute their expertise to the problems and needs of society.
- **Community Service** encourages every Rotarian to find ways to improve the quality of life of people in their communities and to serve the public interest.
- **International Service** exemplifies our global reach in promoting peace and understanding. You embody International Service when you sponsor or volunteer on international projects, seek partners abroad, and foster international peace.
- **Youth Service** recognizes the importance of empowering youth and young professionals through leadership development programs



The Object of Rotary

The Object of Rotary, a principle that emphasizes being ethical, promoting goodwill and peace, and performing international service, was one of the many guiding principles established in Rotary's early years.

The Four-Way Test

Following The Four-Way Test means considering the things we think, say, and do in light of the questions below.



Is it the truth?

Being honest with ourselves and one another will build trust, respect, and friendship.

Is it fair to all concerned?

Gather different perspectives.
What will be the impact on others?



Will it build goodwill and better friendships?

Rotary values friendship and has seen what it can achieve when we work together.

Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Who all will be affected by the action? Consider whether anyone will be unintentionally harmed.



OUR LEGACY

Rotary has been dedicated to the idea of service for more than 110 years. It all started with a man named Paul Harris in Chicago, Illinois, USA. Can you imagine starting a worldwide organization that outlives you?

Scroll through the timeline below to learn about some milestones in Rotary’s history.



1905

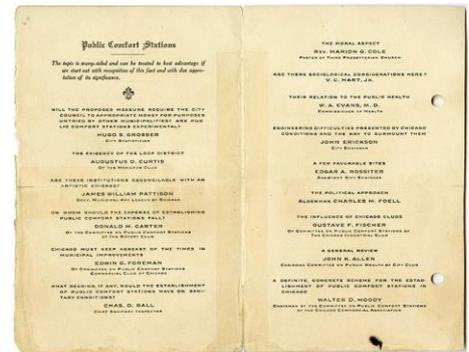
The first Rotary club

Chicago attorney Paul P. Harris convenes the first Rotary club meeting on 23 February 1905 in Chicago, Illinois, USA. Harris envisions a professional club that brings together local men from a variety of vocations. Shown here are the first four Rotarians: Gustavus Loehr, Silvester Schiele, Hiram Shorey, and Paul P. Harris.

1907

An early service project

The Rotary Club of Chicago meets with civic organizations to discuss the need for comfort stations (public toilets) to improve sanitation in Chicago.



1910

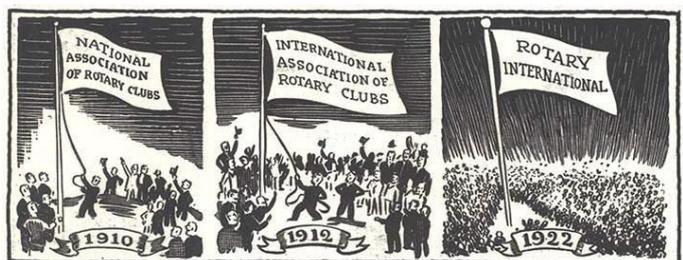
The National Association of Rotary Clubs of America

In August 1910, 16 Rotary clubs in the United States join together to create the National Association of Rotary Clubs of America (now Rotary International) and elect Paul Harris its first president.

1912

Rotary becomes international

With the chartering of a club in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, in April 1912, Rotary becomes an international organization. To reflect this, in August, the organization changes its name to the International Association of Rotary Clubs. The name changes to Rotary International in 1922.



Learn more Rotary history at rotary.org/history.



1917

Rotary Foundation beginnings

At Rotary’s 1917 convention, Arch C. Klumph, then president, proposes establishing an endowment “for the purpose of doing good in the world,” which becomes a precursor to The Rotary Foundation.

1945

Rotary and the United Nations

Rotary International serves as a consultant to the United States delegation at the United Nations charter conference in San Francisco, California, USA. Eleven people officially represent Rotary in this capacity. Other Rotary members attend as delegates from and consultants to their countries.



1947

The first Rotary Foundation program

The Foundation’s first program supports scholarships for graduate study abroad. Rotary would continue to support education, and the program would be known by many names, including Ambassadorial Scholars and Rotary Scholars.

1954

World Headquarters moves to Evanston

Rotary moves its world headquarters from Chicago to a newly constructed building on Ridge Avenue in Evanston, Illinois. In 1987, the headquarters will move to the current location on Sherman Avenue.



1957

Rotary’s first donor recognition

Paul Harris Fellow recognition is established in 1957 to show appreciation for substantial contributions to the Foundation.

1962

Interact

Students at Melbourne High School, in Florida, USA, form the first Interact club in November 1962. Interact empowers students in intermediate and secondary school to learn leadership skills.



Rotaract

1968

Rotaract

Rotary's program for college-age students and young professionals begins with the Rotaract Club of the University of North Carolina-Charlotte, in the United States in March 1968.

1979

Rotary International begins its fight against polio

A multiyear grant project to immunize children in the Philippines launches Rotary International's fight to eradicate polio.



1985

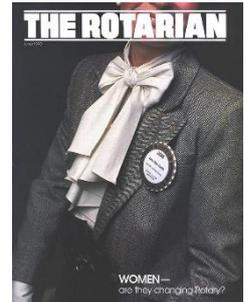
Rotary launches PolioPlus

PolioPlus supports the commitment Rotary made a few years earlier to "eliminate polio through immunization." Today, that commitment remains Rotary's top priority, and the PolioPlus program coordinates the efforts of Rotary and its partners.

1987 and 1989

Women in Rotary

In 1987, women begin to join Rotary clubs throughout the United States following a decision by the U.S. Supreme Court. In 1989, they join clubs worldwide following action by Rotary's Council on Legislation.



1999

Rotary Peace Centers

Trustees vote to create the Rotary Centers for International Studies in peace and conflict resolution, now known as Rotary Peace Centers. The first class of Rotary Peace Fellows will begin studies in 2002.

2013

District and global grants begin

The Rotary Foundation introduces a simplified grant model that includes district and global grants to fund Rotarians' service efforts. From providing clean water and sanitation to supporting basic education and literacy, Rotary Foundation grants bring service project ideas to life. Since 2013, we've awarded 2,466 district grants totaling \$126 million, and 5,677 global grants totaling \$332 million.



OUR CAUSES

We have found that we can maximize our impact by targeting certain causes. Specializing in these **areas of focus** increases the success — and the sustainability — of our humanitarian activities. Through global grants and other resources, we help clubs focus their service efforts in these areas.

Watch the video "Rotary Fights Disease," to learn about one of the causes we champion. <https://youtu.be/zRcm00eKgv4>



To learn more about all of our areas of focus, click on the tiles below.



Fighting disease

We are equipping communities to stop the spread of life-threatening diseases like polio, HIV/AIDS, and malaria.

Providing clean water, sanitation, and hygiene

We are supporting local solutions to bring clean water, sanitation, and hygiene to more people every day.





Supporting education

We are strengthening the capacity of communities to support basic education and literacy, reduce gender disparity in education, and increase adult literacy

Growing local economies

We carry out service projects that help grow local economies in impoverished communities.



Saving mothers and children

We expand access to quality care, so mothers and their children can live and grow stronger.

Promoting peace

Rotary encourages conversations to foster understanding within and across cultures. We train adults and young leaders to prevent and mediate conflict and help refugees who have fled dangerous area



OUR FOUNDATION

The Rotary Foundation has been improving lives for decades. Our members' and others' donations to the Foundation allow us to bring sustainable change to communities in need.

Watch the video below to learn about how our Foundation began and how it supports the projects that address the causes we care about.

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zgc2HhTaYNs&t=137s>)



When you give to The Rotary Foundation, you fuel our service projects — projects that reduce polio, promote peace, and improve developing communities. You can give to The Rotary Foundation at www.rotary.org/donate.

How members help

When you make a gift to The Rotary Foundation, you are directly supporting service projects that change lives close to home and around the world. More than 90 percent of donations go directly to supporting our service projects. During the past 100 years, our Foundation has spent over \$4 billion on life-changing projects and over \$1.8 billion on polio eradication efforts worldwide.

Polio eradication

Fighting polio is Rotary's number one external priority. Since 1979, Rotary members have contributed time and money to this effort by advocating for government support, raising funds, and serving as volunteers to immunize children. Rotary works with partners around the world including the World Health Organization (WHO), the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), UNICEF, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and governments to achieve this historic public health goal.

Learn how you can get involved at endpolio.org.

Click or tap the plus signs below to learn more about what polio eradication involves.



1) Volunteers

Many volunteers like this one assist Rotary members in organizing and implementing an immunization day.

2) Marker

Volunteers mark those who have been immunized by coloring a finger blue or purple.

3) Parents of immunized children

An important part of eradicating polio is educating parents about how the wild poliovirus spreads and the benefits of the vaccine.

Rotary grants

The Rotary Foundation offers grants that support humanitarian projects, scholarships, and vocational training teams. These funds come from the contributions that members and nonmembers make to The Rotary Foundation. Global grants support large international projects with long-term, sustainable outcomes in one or more of Rotary's areas of focus.

District grants fund smaller-scale, short-term projects that address immediate needs in the local community or abroad.

Click or tap the plus signs below to learn more about how Rotary grants make a difference.



1) Hospital

This maternity hospital, damaged by a 2004 tsunami, was partially rebuilt by Rotary District 1950 (Germany) and the Rotary Club of Colombo, Western Province, Sri Lanka, in partnership with the Helmut Kohl Foundation.

2) Medical equipment

The medical equipment was provided by a Rotary grant.

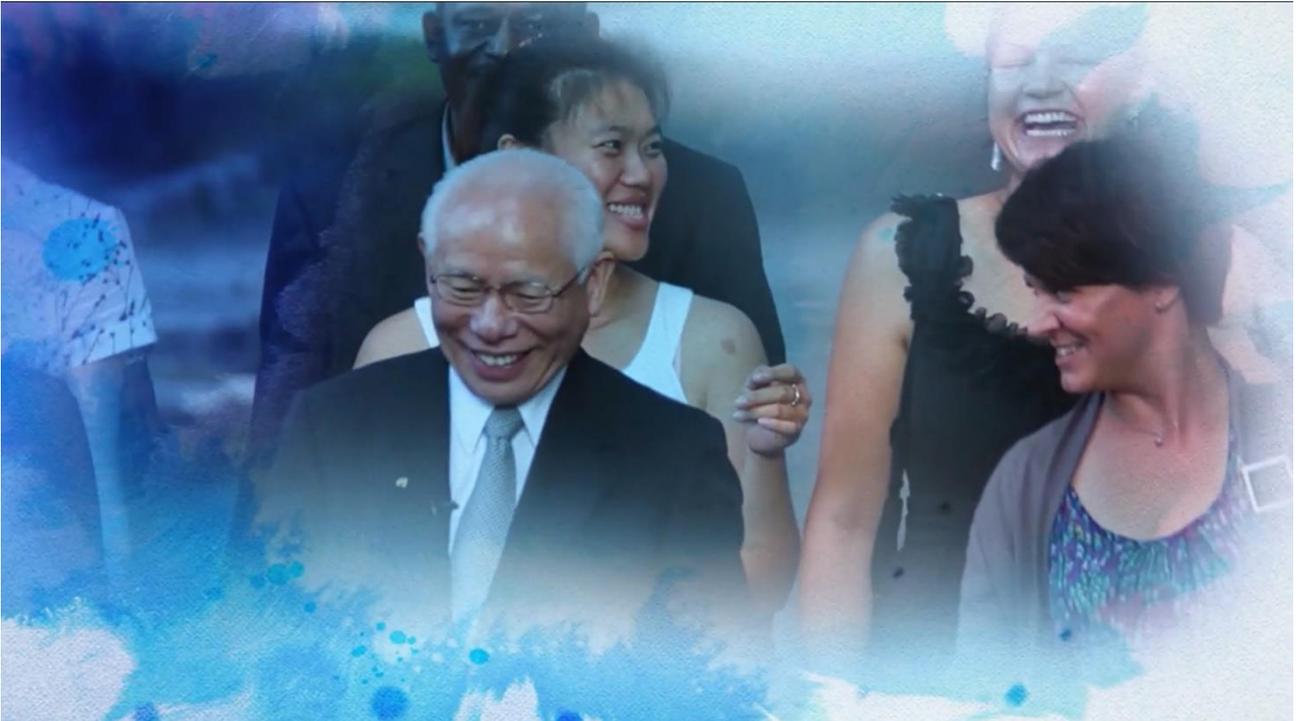
3) Nurse

A nurse checks on a mother in the postnatal ward at the Mahamodara Taching Hospital in Galle, Sri Lanka.

Rotary Peace Centers

The Rotary Foundation also funds Rotary Peace Centers at seven leading universities around the world. Each year, Rotary districts nominate candidates for [Rotary Peace Fellowships](#), scholarships for studies in peace and conflict resolution. After their studies, Rotary Peace Fellows have gone on to serve in government, education, law enforcement, and restorative justice and at international agencies.

Watch the video below to see how Rotary promotes peace, one of its areas of focus.
(<https://youtu.be/ZoX8JQ1tZa8>)



OUR IMAGE

Rotarians do incredible work all over the world. Despite our accomplishments, many people haven't heard about us. We can change this by telling our Rotary stories to help people understand how we create lasting change for the causes we champion.

We have great stories to tell. Stories of connection with others in our communities and around the world. Stories of personal growth and of emerging as leaders through our passion to do good in the world.

Watch the video below to see how compelling our stories can be.

(<https://youtu.be/7DV9yd3GOOA>)



Explain to your friends why you joined and what you enjoy about being a Rotarian.

Rotary's image

As members, we all have a role in promoting the work we do in our clubs and around the world. When you share your Rotary experiences, you increase the public's understanding of our impact.

Click on the cards below to see simple ways you can influence Rotary's image:



Tell your friends and family about the impact your club makes in your area and how you're a part of it.

Wear your Rotary pin, which sparks conversations among strangers.



Share your Rotary experiences on social media and be sure to include photos.



WELCOME TO THE BRAND CENTER

Tell the story of Rotary and how we are people of action in your community and around the world.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Join Leaders. Exchange Ideas. Take Action.



Tools to help

Telling our stories to the public — in a compelling and consistent way — can help us move people from merely being aware of Rotary to understanding what we do. To craft those stories, use resources from Rotary's Brand Center: branded templates, logos, and other materials.

You can find Rotary's [Brand Center](#) on [My Rotary](#).

TEST YOUR ROTARY KNOWLEDGE

Test your Rotary knowledge by answering these questions.



Question 01

Who founded Rotary?

- 1) Bill Gates
- 2) Oprah Winfrey
- 3) Nelson Mandela
- 4) Paul Harris

Question 02

You can find official logos, templates, and other Rotary-branded materials on ...

- 1) The Brand Center
- 2) The Learning Center
- 3) The Grant Center
- 4) Rotary Club Central



Question 03

Which of the following are ways to get involved in Rotary? (Check all that apply.)

- 1) Become a club leader
- 2) Help with a service project
- 3) Participate in an NID to help eradicate polio
- 4) All of above



Question 04

Match the area of focus with the example.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1) Providing clean water | a) Training Ethiopian midwives, nurses, and students in lifesaving care for newborns |
| 2) Saving mothers and children | b) Developing a program that delivers clean water to schools in Lebanon |
| 3) Growing local economies | c) Offering microloans to entrepreneurs to help them become vendors, weavers, and tailors |
| 4) Promoting peace | d) Helping Syrian refugees in Canada to protect them from conflict |
| 5) Fighting disease | e) Fighting adult illiteracy by working with advocates to offer tutoring programs |
| 6) Supporting education | f) Training caregivers in techniques for working with people who have dementia |

Question 05

The Rotary International president ... (Check all that apply.)

- 1) Serves a one-year term
- 2) Serves a three-year term
- 3) Presides over the RI Board of Directors
- 4) Is always American



Question 06

How many Rotary members are there worldwide?

- 1) Almost 400,000
- 2) About 1.2 million
- 3) Over 2.5 million



Question 07

When did Rotary begin its fight against polio?

- 1) 1932
- 2) 1905
- 3) 1966
- 4) 1979

Question 08

How many clubs, districts, and zones are there in Rotary? (Match the number with the correct choice.)

- 1) 34 a) Districts
- 2) 535 b) Clubs
- 3) 35,000 c) Zones



Question 09

Where is Rotary International World Headquarters located?

- 1) Chicago, Illinois, USA
- 2) London, England
- 3) Evanston, Illinois, USA
- 4) San Diego, California, USA

Question 10

Which of the following are cities are home to an international Rotary office? (Check all that apply.)

- 1) Paramatta, Australia
- 2) Beijing, China
- 3) Paris, France
- 4) New Delhi, India
- 5) Los Angeles, USA



Question 11

Rotary grants include ... (Check all that apply.)

- 1) Matching grants
- 2) Global grants
- 3) District grants
- 4) Community grants



Question 12

Which is not part of The Four-Way Test?

- 1) Is it fair to all concerned?
- 2) Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
- 3) What's in it for me?
- 4) Is it the truth?

Question 13

Which of the following are included in Rotary's core values? (Check all that apply.)

- 1) Service
- 2) Networking
- 3) Diversity
- 4) Integrity



Question 14

You can promote Rotary's image by ... (Check all that apply.)

- 1) Sharing your club's activities on social media
- 2) Wearing your Rotary pin
- 3) Talking to friends and family about Rotary
- 4) All of the above

Answers

- 01 – 4) Paul Harris founded Rotary in 1905.
- 02 – 1) The Brand Center is where all of Rotary's brand assets are available. You can access it and the other resources mentioned above through My Rotary.
- 03 – 4) All of these answers are correct
- 04 – 1) - b; 2) - a; 3) - c; 4) - d; 5) - f; 6) - e
- 05 – 1) & 3)
The RI president serves a one-year term and presides over the RI Board of Directors. She or he can be from any part of the Rotary world.
- 06 – 2) There are about 1.2 million Rotary members worldwide.
- 07 – 4) Rotary began its fight against polio in 1979.
- 08 – 1) - c; 2) - a; 3) - b
Rotary's 35,000 clubs are grouped into around 530 districts, which are grouped into 34 zones. Each level has a number of leadership positions, all designed to support clubs and their members.
- 09 – 3) Rotary International World Headquarters is in Evanston, Illinois, USA
- 10 – 1) & 4)
Our international offices are in Paramatta, New Delhi, São Paulo, Seoul, Tokyo, and Zurich. An independent office in Alcester, England, serves Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland.
- 11 – 2) & 3)
Rotary's grant structure has included global grants and district grants since 2013.
- 12 – 3)

The Four-Way Test states:
OF THE THINGS WE THINK, SAY OR DO:
1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

- 13 – 1), 3) & 4)
Rotary's core values include service, diversity, leadership, fellowship, and integrity.
- 14 – 4) You can present Rotary in a positive light by doing any or all of these things.

