



# RGHF'S

## OUR FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

A Newsletter for Rotary Leaders • A monthly feature



"We should not live for ourselves alone, but for the joy in doing good for others."  
Arch Klumph, founder of The Rotary Foundation

### Issue 239 - March 2022

#### Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

The first Rotaract Club was Chartered on 13th March 1968, and since then 13th March has been celebrated as World Rotaract Day and the week containing this day is observed as the World Rotaract Week.

Being an ex-Rotaractor, the month of March has been of great significance in Rotary. As a Rotarian, through the years, I have had the opportunity to charter and support a number of Rotaract Clubs in my area. It is a matter of great delight that this month, we would be presenting Charters to another two new Rotaract Clubs formed through my home club.

With the status of Rotaract being elevated, members of Rotaract Clubs truly become partners of Rotary and we can work hand-in-hand towards *Doing Good in the World*. We also look forward to the youth to come forward and contribute to the Rotary Foundation in any way they can. This would give them a sense of achievement in being able to directly impact the various projects being supported by the Rotary Foundation across the globe.

Rotary Regards,



**Jeetendra Sharma**  
Editor-in-Chief  
RGHF's Our Foundation Newsletter



#### Trustee Chair's Message

In the mid-18th century, Benjamin Franklin wrote: "When the well's dry, we know the worth of water."

Right now, in the 21st century, many of us take water for granted because we have been fortunate to live in places where clean water is plentiful. But that's not the case for millions of others around the world. The United Nations estimates that 2 billion people — about 1 in 4 people on the planet — lack safely managed drinking water. Just under half of the world's population lives without access to safely managed toilets and sanitation systems, and nearly a third lacks basic hand washing stations with soap and clean water.

Isn't it astounding that, in an age of instant information and space tourism, we still haven't managed to guarantee the necessities of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) to so many?

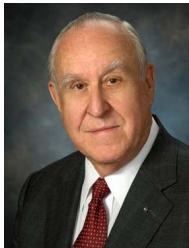
Rotary is doing something about it; WASH projects are among the most funded within our areas of focus: Since 2014, Rotary clubs have carried out more than 2,100 global grants related to WASH by using \$154 million in Foundation funding, impacting countless people.

In addition, Rotary's WASH alliance with USAID, more than a decade strong, is considered Rotary's largest partnership outside of PolioPlus. Rotary and USAID have committed a combined \$18 million in WASH funding to large-scale strategic efforts at the national level in countries such as Ghana and Uganda. The partnership unites the technical expertise of USAID's development professionals with the local leadership and advocacy of Rotary members to find workable, sustainable WASH solutions in hundreds of communities. You can learn more at [riusaidwash.rotary.org](https://riusaidwash.rotary.org).

The theme of World Water Day, 22 March, is *Groundwater: Making the Invisible Visible*. This is an opportune time for clubs to learn more about WASH issues and take action collectively to create and sustain momentum for expanding access to universal WASH services. Rotary members can bring attention to the WASH challenges that impact us locally by sharing the stories, experiences, and WASH needs of those we serve globally.

We can be proud of the work that Rotary clubs and our Foundation continue to do to provide communities with clean water and working sanitation and hygiene systems. But let's not stop there.

This month, let's look out for our neighbors around the world whose wells are running dry or who lack toilets or soap. Rotary has the resources, partnerships, and passion to improve WASH services for millions in need worldwide. And most important, we have the people who can make it work — you and me.



**John F. Germ**  
Trustee Chair 2021-22

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## Rotary Foundation receives highest rating from Charity Navigator for 14th consecutive year

For the 14th consecutive year, The Rotary Foundation has received the highest rating — four stars — from [Charity Navigator](https://www.charitynavigator.org), an independent evaluator of charities in the U.S.

The Foundation earned the recognition for adhering to sector best practices and executing its mission in a financially efficient way, demonstrating both strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency. Only one percent of the organizations Charity Navigator evaluates have received 14 consecutive 4-star evaluations.



“We are honored to have been recognized and to be among the top 1% of charities evaluated,” said Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair John Germ. “Our donors can feel proud knowing that their gifts will allow them to make an impact in their communities and the world for years to come.”

The rating reflects Charity Navigator's assessment of how the Foundation uses donations, sustains its programs and services, and practices good governance and openness.

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## The Rotary Foundation creates channel for direct humanitarian support in Ukraine region

In response to the deepening humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, The Rotary Foundation has created an official channel for donors

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around the world to contribute funds to support the relief efforts underway by Rotary districts and has designated its [Disaster Response Fund](#) as the main avenue for contributions.

To this end, The Rotary Foundation has approved:

- Now through 30 June 2022, designated Rotary districts that border Ukraine and the Rotary district in Ukraine may apply for grants of up to \$50,000 each from the Disaster Response Fund. These expedited disaster response grants can be used to provide relief to refugees or other victims of the crisis including items such as water, food, shelter, medicine and clothing.
- During this same period, other impacted Rotary districts that wish to offer support to refugees or other victims of the crisis in their district can apply for \$25,000 grants from the Disaster Response Fund.
- Now through 30 April 2022, Rotary districts can transfer unallocated District Designated Funds (DDF) to support the Disaster Response Fund, directly supporting these Ukraine-specific humanitarian grants.
- Contributions to the Disaster Relief Fund in support of Ukraine can be made [here](#). All funds need to be received into the Disaster Response Fund by 30 April 2022 in order to qualify for use in support of the Ukrainian relief efforts.
- Although the Disaster Response Fund will be the main avenue for Rotary Foundation support, Rotary and Rotaract clubs are also encouraged to create their own responses to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine.

In addition to support provided through the Disaster Response Fund, the Foundation is coordinating with partners and regional leaders, exploring effective solutions to the increased humanitarian needs.

- We are in contact with the United Nations High Commission on Refugees – USA to prepare for and respond to the needs of those being displaced in Ukraine and to neighboring countries.
- ShelterBox, our project partner for disaster response, is in communication with Rotary members in Eastern Europe to explore how it may offer support with temporary transitional housing and other essential supplies.
- The Rotary Action Group for Refugees, Forced Displacement, and Migration is also mobilizing its resources to assist in this crisis.

More than 2 million people have fled Ukraine and are in dire need of emergency aid. The United Nations estimates that number could grow to as many as 5 million people displaced. Rotary clubs in Europe and around the world have stepped up their relief work, some working on the ground to help displaced families.

We will continue to monitor the situation in Ukraine and neighboring countries. Visit My Rotary and follow Rotary on social media to stay updated on how clubs can get involved and what actions Rotary members have taken and the impact it has had for people in the region.

For all other questions and to obtain more information, please contact the Rotary Support Center at [rotarysupportcenter@rotary.org](mailto:rotarysupportcenter@rotary.org).

*Source: Rotary International*

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## Rotary statement on wild polio case in Malawi

As a result of ongoing disease surveillance, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) has confirmed a case of type 1 wild poliovirus (WPV1) in a child suffering from paralysis in Malawi. Analysis has shown the virus is genetically linked to WPV1 that had circulated in Pakistan's Sindh province.

The GPEI is supporting health authorities in Malawi to conduct a thorough assessment of the situation and begin urgent immunization activities to mitigate any risk of spread. Environmental surveillance measures are also being expanded in Malawi and neighboring countries to detect any other potential cases.

Detection of WPV1 outside the world's two remaining endemic countries of Pakistan and Afghanistan is a serious concern and underscores the importance of prioritizing polio immunization activities in countries such as Malawi to prevent future instances of importation. Rotary has continued strong financial support to Africa since the most recent previous case in Nigeria. During the last two years, 54% of the Rotary PolioPlus budget has supported disease surveillance, outbreak response, the purchase of vaccines and operational expenses throughout Africa.

While the news from Malawi is disappointing, the polio program has seen importations from endemic countries to regions that have been certified wild polio-free in the past, and has moved quickly to successfully stop transmission of the virus in these areas. As an imported case from Pakistan, this detection of WPV in Malawi does not affect the WHO African region's wild polio-free certification status.

In the more than three decades since Rotary launched its PolioPlus program and formed the GPEI, we have repeatedly stressed that polio anywhere is a threat to children everywhere. The case in Malawi imported from Pakistan underscores the importance of that statement. Now is the time for all parties – Rotary members, communities, government leaders, and global partners – to recommit to ending all forms of polio for good. As Rotary members, it is critical that we ramp up our efforts to raise awareness for the importance of reaching all children with polio vaccines, and continue raising the funds necessary to carry out critical eradication activities to

protect vulnerable children and prevent further outbreaks.

Donate now at [endpolio.org/donate](https://endpolio.org/donate)

Source: *Rotary International*

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## Our Foundation Newsletter



This newsletter is published by the Rotary Global History Fellowship. The comments and stories in this newsletter do not reflect the opinions of Rotary International, The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International or any other Rotary related organization.

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