

The Rotary Foundation



Transforming lives around the globe

The Rotary Foundation transforms gifts and donations into service projects that change lives both close to home and around the world. Over the past 100 years, the Foundation has spent \$3 billion on life-changing, sustainable projects. At the 1917 convention, in Atlanta, US, outgoing RI president Arch Klumph planted the seed for an endowment fund dedicated to “doing good in the world.” That one idea, and an initial contribution of \$26.50, set in motion a powerful force that has transformed millions of lives around the globe, enabling Rotarians to perpetuate our founder’s vision to give back to the community.

Kicking goals every year

EVERY YEAR, we celebrate November as Rotary Foundation Month. How fortunate we are to have a world-class Foundation that allows us to do so much good in the world. We should all take pride in the fact that something good happens every second of every day because of Rotarians and our Rotary Foundation.

Remember how excited we were at the 2017 Rotary International Convention in Atlanta, where we celebrated the Foundation’s first 100 years? The fundraising goal for that year was US\$300 million, and, as

you recall, we raised US\$304 million to exceed that goal. It was a landmark year for the Foundation.

In the 2017-18 Rotary year, as the Foundation entered its second century of service, we had an even more ambitious fundraising goal of \$360 million. At the convention in Toronto in June, outgoing Trustee Chair Paul Netzel told attendees that we once again had a landmark year for our Foundation, setting a one-year fundraising record of US\$373 million.

This year, our fundraising goal totals US\$380 million. Our goal for polio is

US\$50 million, which will be turned into US\$150 million through the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation matching grant. Add to that a US\$137 million goal for the Annual Fund, US\$61.5 million for the Endowment Fund, and US\$31.5 million for global grant cash and other outright gifts, and our many programs will be fully funded and Rotarians will be completely equipped and empowered to continue making real change.

Now, it’s up to you and me. We have the chance to forge a path of ever-increasing relevance and influence — to choose the

direction and tempo of the Foundation’s second century.

I’m challenging you to increase your involvement in our Foundation — by doing, by giving and by inspiring. Together, we can make tomorrow even brighter than today. We can make every month Rotary Foundation Month. So, *Be the Inspiration*, build your Rotary legacy and let’s make this yet another landmark year in our history.

Ron Burton
Foundation Trustee Chair

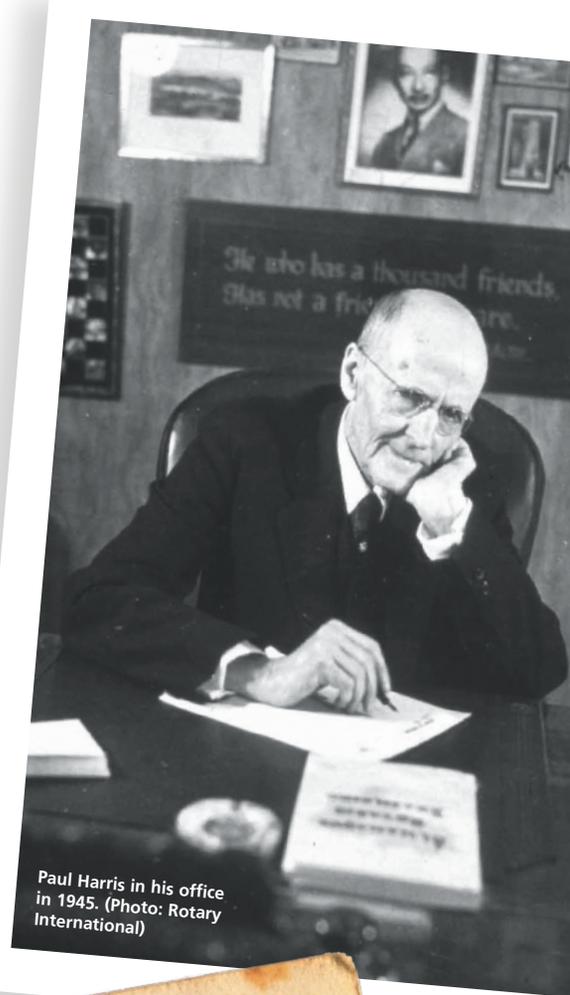
A tribute to Paul Harris

The following letter was written by past Rotary International president Sir Angus Mitchell, from Melbourne, Vic, upon learning of the death of Rotary International founder Paul Harris on January 27, 1947.

At the time of writing the letter, Angus was a presidential nominee, later to become the first Australian president of Rotary International in 1948-49.

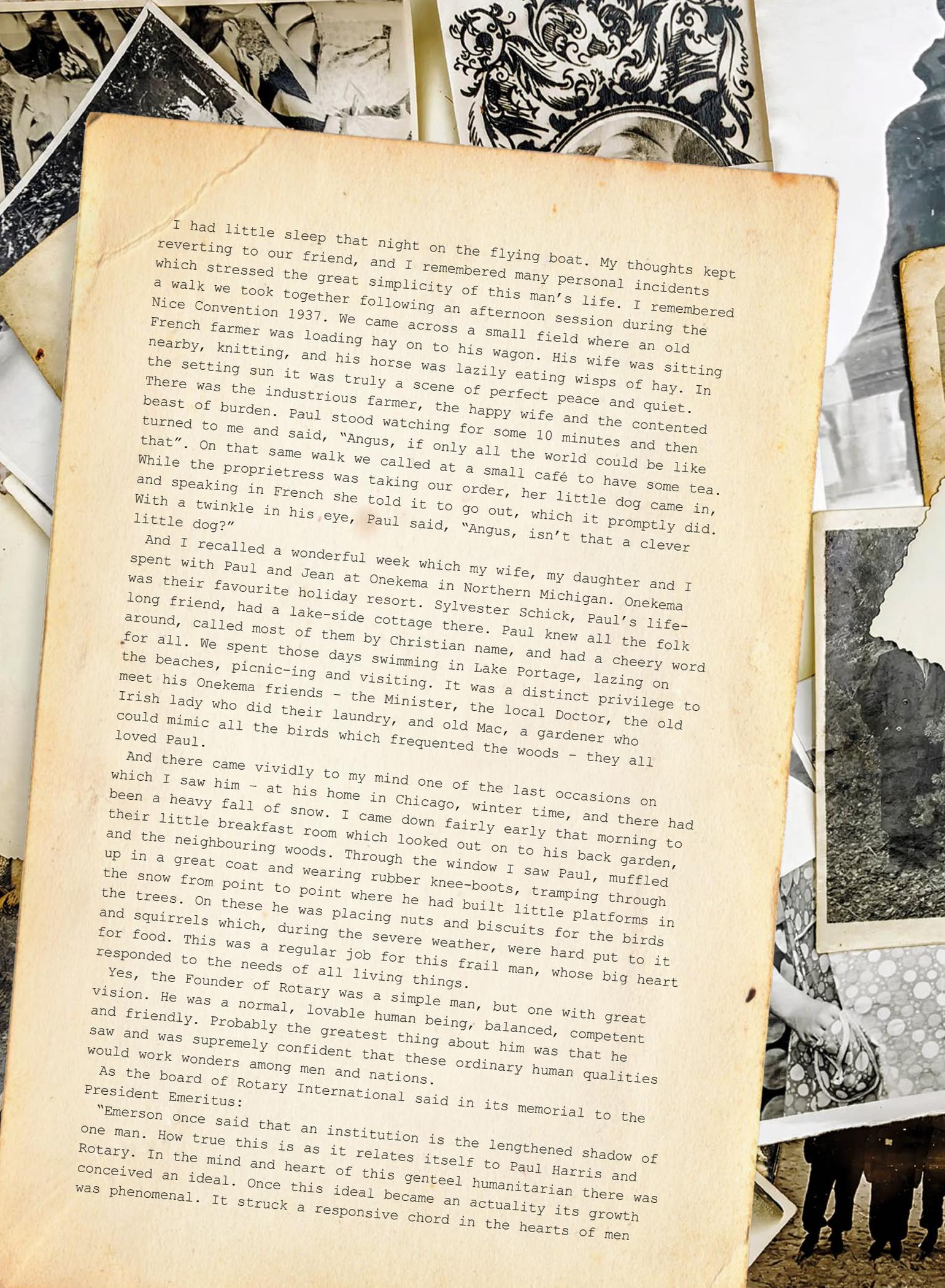
The letter was found by Victor Sullivan from the Rotary Club of Mornington, Vic, who believes it was sent to either his father (Stan Sullivan – past District 280 governor 1965-66) or his father-in-law (AV Ikin – past president (1937-38) of the Rotary Club of Benalla, Vic) at the time of Paul Harris's death.

On behalf of all Rotarians, we sincerely thank the Sullivan family for allowing us to reprint this personal letter



Paul Harris in his office in 1945. (Photo: Rotary International)

By Angus S Mitchell, nominee of the nominating committee of Rotary International for president 1948-49.
Just after the flying boat, on which I was a passenger, took off from Sydney about 11.30pm, January 28th, we were handed the evening papers, and I learnt that Paul Harris was dead. I realised that a great man, and a dear personal friend had been taken. Paul was a great man. His devotion and dedication to Christian ideals, his unbounded capacity for friendship, his keenness of perception, and his uncanny ability to visualise the future coupled with his genuine appreciation of current problems, made him great. He saw that more friendship was needed, and founded Rotary, the basic principle of which is friendship. Time will demonstrate the soundness of this conception of the Rotarian ideal. Then he devoted his life to the nurture of his ideal, and has seen it spread around the world, bringing happiness and satisfaction to hundreds of thousands of men of all colours, races and creeds - causing men to have affection for another, and planting understanding and tolerance where formerly these did not grow. He was an outstanding example of his own teaching that true happiness is found in the service of others. His was really a life of service, and when privileged to be with him, I was inspired by the burning enthusiasm which, despite his ill-health and frail body, carried him on in his work.



I had little sleep that night on the flying boat. My thoughts kept reverting to our friend, and I remembered many personal incidents which stressed the great simplicity of this man's life. I remembered a walk we took together following an afternoon session during the Nice Convention 1937. We came across a small field where an old French farmer was loading hay on to his wagon. His wife was sitting nearby, knitting, and his horse was lazily eating wisps of hay. In the setting sun it was truly a scene of perfect peace and quiet. There was the industrious farmer, the happy wife and the contented beast of burden. Paul stood watching for some 10 minutes and then turned to me and said, "Angus, if only all the world could be like that". On that same walk we called at a small café to have some tea. While the proprietress was taking our order, her little dog came in, and speaking in French she told it to go out, which it promptly did. With a twinkle in his eye, Paul said, "Angus, isn't that a clever little dog?"

And I recalled a wonderful week which my wife, my daughter and I spent with Paul and Jean at Onekema in Northern Michigan. Onekema was their favourite holiday resort. Sylvester Schick, Paul's life-long friend, had a lake-side cottage there. Paul knew all the folk around, called most of them by Christian name, and had a cheery word for all. We spent those days swimming in Lake Portage, lazing on the beaches, picnic-ing and visiting. It was a distinct privilege to meet his Onekema friends - the Minister, the local Doctor, the old Irish lady who did their laundry, and old Mac, a gardener who could mimic all the birds which frequented the woods - they all loved Paul.

And there came vividly to my mind one of the last occasions on which I saw him - at his home in Chicago, winter time, and there had been a heavy fall of snow. I came down fairly early that morning to their little breakfast room which looked out on to his back garden, and the neighbouring woods. Through the window I saw Paul, muffled up in a great coat and wearing rubber knee-boots, tramping through the snow from point to point where he had built little platforms in the trees. On these he was placing nuts and biscuits for the birds and squirrels which, during the severe weather, were hard put to it for food. This was a regular job for this frail man, whose big heart responded to the needs of all living things.

Yes, the Founder of Rotary was a simple man, but one with great vision. He was a normal, lovable human being, balanced, competent and friendly. Probably the greatest thing about him was that he saw and was supremely confident that these ordinary human qualities would work wonders among men and nations.

As the board of Rotary International said in its memorial to the President Emeritus:

"Emerson once said that an institution is the lengthened shadow of one man. How true this is as it relates itself to Paul Harris and Rotary. In the mind and heart of this genteel humanitarian there was conceived an ideal. Once this ideal became an actuality its growth was phenomenal. It struck a responsive chord in the hearts of men



Paul Harris's Legacy

Rotary started with the vision of one man – Paul Harris. The Chicago attorney formed the Rotary Club of Chicago on February 23, 1905, so professionals with diverse backgrounds could exchange ideas, form meaningful, lifelong friendships, and give back to their communities.

The Paul Harris Fellow program recognises individuals who contribute, or who have contributions made in their name, of US\$1000 to The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International.

The honour was established in 1957 to show appreciation for contributions that support our Annual Fund, *PolioPlus*, or an approved Foundation grant.

The number of Paul Harris Fellows reached the one million mark in 2006.

The Paul Harris Society recognises Rotary members and friends of The Rotary Foundation who contribute US\$1000 or more each year to the Annual Fund, *PolioPlus* Fund, or approved global grants.

The purpose of the Paul Harris Society is to honour and thank individuals for their generous, ongoing support of The Rotary Foundation.

the world over. Its precept of "Service above Self" was attractive and appealing to those who sought in life an opportunity to enunciate in a concrete and practical way the truth that one only finds the fulfilment of life as he loses himself in the service of his fellow men."

Paul Harris was a splendid advocate for any cause in which he believed, and I would venture the opinion that Rotary's fourth object was a cause nearer to his heart than any other. With all the strength of his none too robust body, and with all his intellectual energy, he worked unceasingly for the attainment of the pinnacle of Rotary achievement – the fourth object, Peace, and a truly neighbourly world. To aid in its implementation, he travelled extensively, meeting and appreciating men everywhere he went. He had a world circle of friends who kept him in touch with changing horizons. His home was always open to visitations from every corner of the globe. He conducted a study circle, which met regularly to discuss international problems. It was my privilege to attend some of these meetings. In Chicago there are many eating houses managed by nationals from almost every country in the world, and offering the special foods of such countries. I have been to many of these with Paul and Jean who made it their business to know the proprietors personally. Their kindly smiles and enquiries about the family, their friendly handclasp, endeared them to these people as to all whom they met. Yes, Paul Harris was truly international, and he had a keenly developed international mind. Many of his talks and writings all stressed the important fact that to know people you had to be friendly with them, and that through knowledge, came tolerance and understanding, so necessary for Peace.

Paul hated war. In his book *This Rotarian Age* he said, "War pays neither victor nor vanquished, and at its very best is the very worst that human beings know.

"War is the result of passions unrestrained – passions aroused by greed and jealousy, intolerance, arrogance, rivalry and eventually hatred – whipped into fury by lies, probable and improbable, plausible and implausible, believable and unbelievable, sublime and ridiculous." How true this statement –

At the same time, Paul had a strong faith that, provided the correct ingredients are used, international co-operation for the elimination of war as a means of settling disputes between nations, is possible. God grant that time will prove him to be right. I believe it will –

Paul showed his internationalism by marrying a charming Scotch lady. References to Paul are incomplete without reference to Jean. She was to him a wonderful mate and partner, and Paul's resources were greatly strengthened by her sweet influence. Always kindly and gracious she was an inspiration to his friends as to her own. Those who have met her will always remember her with much affection.



Our Founder has gone in the flesh, but he and his life's work will live on forever in Rotary. His influence will ever be with us, a shining example, and an urge to greater and greater service. We all have benefited from the friendly shade of that tree of Rotary which he planted years ago, but we must not be content. We must translate and pass on those benefits by friendly service to our fellow men through Vocational, Community and International avenues. Let no one Rotarian think his efforts futile and unimportant, provided they are the best he can do, because it is the sum total of efforts which counts. Let us remember again that our membership in Rotary is a sacred trust, and that we must live up to the obligations we assumed when we joined.

For many years I have dreamed and talked of the tremendous influence for good which could be spread by a million or more Rotarians, really keen, really enthusiastic, really imbued with Rotary ideals, and really out for friendly service.

As a fitting tribute to Paul, and to honour his memory, and sharing the belief that his ideals and works will live through the ages - let us here and now, on this Anniversary day, re-dedicate ourselves to the cause. Let us re-affirm our faith in a common purpose, a common conviction, and a common devotion. Let us be determined to seek to understand the minds of other people, and weigh their interests alongside our own. Above all, let us make a decision to be not just members of a Rotary club, but Rotarians in the truest and fullest sense as Paul Harris would have us be.

May 1949: Sir Angus Mitchell and Percy Hodgson talking in Angus's office at RI World Headquarters, with a photo of Paul Harris in background. (Photo: Don Sigler - The Rotarian Staff/Rotary International.)



The Rotary Save Our Sisters program trains victims of human trafficking at the Navjeevan Mahila Vasatigruha shelter in Mumbai with the skills they need to become gainfully employed and live a life of dignity and self-respect.

SAVE OUR SISTERS

HUMAN TRAFFICKING is a global phenomenon adversely affecting millions of lives. It not only undermines democratic values, rule of law and human rights, but also constitutes some of the most heinous crimes against humanity.

Mumbai has a large number of girls trafficked from the various states of India and its neighbouring countries like Nepal and Bangladesh. Women and girls rescued during raids conducted by the police are lodged at Navjeevan Mahila Vasatigruha – a government-run care and protection home for trafficking survivors.

Victims are deeply traumatised, ashamed, angry and scared of what their future holds. Yet little was being done in regards to their rehabilitation, despite awareness of the problems faced by victims reintegrating effectively into society and achieving economic independence.

The local Rotary Club of Mumbai Queens Necklace was inspired to do what they could to help. They approached the Rotary Club of Auckland Harbourside, NZ, to be International Club and District Partners in order to receive a Rotary Foundation Global Grant to fund their efforts.

The project they developed, Rotary Save Our Sisters, is directed at training women at the shelter with the skills they need to become gainfully employed and live a life of dignity and self-respect. Rotarians have partnered with Save the Children India, who have experience providing vocational training, to help deliver education sessions and conduct counselling.

The club faced a number of challenges to get things up and running, including government regulations, communication barriers



due to the many nationalities present, different existing skill levels among the women, and resistance to change. However, first training began in October 2017 and has been achieving excellent results.

Training encompasses many industries, allowing the women to find an outlet for their passions and existing abilities. These include, but are not limited to, beauty, hospitality, tailoring and garment manufacture, and block printing. More advanced and specialised courses are provided as required. All women take part in classes to develop basic spoken English.

As of August 2018, about 200

women have been counselled and trained through Save Our Sisters. The aim is to assist 400-500 women over the full two-year timeframe, at a total cost of US\$65,317.

After completing the program, Save Our Sisters helps women find employment through liaising with corporates and other organisations. It is early days, but already around 20 women have been successfully placed in employment.

The project is ongoing, and Rotarians continue to visit the shelter and monitor progress, looking for opportunities to make a positive difference in the lives of these horrendously mistreated but resilient women.



NEXT STOP – POLIO ERADICATION

IN THE LEAD-UP to World Polio Day on October 24, Dave Anderson and his father, Mark, both from the Rotary Club of Beecroft, NSW, devised a plan to travel to all 187 railway stations on the Sydney Metropolitan rail network in one day. Their goal was to raise funds and awareness for the *End Polio Now* program.

Planning started by contacting the district governors in the two Rotary districts that covered the greater Sydney metropolitan area. Both gave enthusiastic support. The idea was to gain both club and individual support for the fundraiser:

- Personal sponsorship at \$1 per station
- Club sponsorship at \$10 per station
- Corporate sponsorship at \$100 per station.

A goal was set to raise \$333,333.33, so that Dave could sell the idea of raising \$1m utilising the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation match of \$2 for every \$1. Both districts then set about promoting this event to their respective clubs. The idea of Rotarians riding the train for sections of the event was also promoted, and for members to wear either their club shirts or the red *End Polio Now* shirts.

On the last Friday of September, at 4.05am, Mark, Dave, fellow club member Anne Wright and Jaz Stephens, of the Rotary Club of North Sydney Sunrise, all arrived at Epping railway station to catch the first train at 4.32am.

The first train ride of 26 different trains throughout the day was the longest. On this section the group stopped at 35 of the 187 stations. At 5.31am they were joined by the first of more than 200 Rotarians who rode that day.

By the time the train arrived at Parramatta at 8.54am, the tally was already \$190,000 raised or committed. As the group travelled, they collected more Rotarians, and it became evident this was the first event that really brought the Rotarians from both districts together where they just sat and talked and shared experiences.

The trip was not without its dramas, as there were some very tight interchanges. The finely tuned plan finally came undone at Leppington terminus station, where the three-minute change was missed by 20 seconds. The result was to push the entire program back so the event could be completed.

The group arrived at Sutherland station just before 10pm, and could not believe the size of the group from the Rotary Club of Caringbah that was there to complete the ride to Cronulla. They presented a cheque for \$5000 before boarding train 26 to Cronulla, where the journey finished at 10.15pm.

The final tally was north of \$240,000, but Dave and Mark were excited to have completed the challenge.





SMALL CLUBS CAN ACHIEVE BIG THINGS



Two Wallara clients enjoying the new sensory garden at the day care facility.

THE ROTARY CLUB of Langwarrin, Vic, is a very small, but productive club. It may not raise the big bucks of the larger clubs, but it has proved that, with hard work and by eliciting help from the local community and other Rotary clubs, it can achieve great things.

For a while, the club was more focused on raising and donating funds to both Rotary and community causes. While this is great in its own way, it was decided the club should start undertaking projects that would create something concrete and lasting in the community.

"We came up with the idea of a community garden, which ended up being a much lengthier endeavour than we first expected," club member



Linda Waghorn said. "It took four years of planning, meetings and council presentations before we could start construction. Once sorted, though, we had the garden built

and open within six months."

The garden is situated behind the Langwarrin Community Centre. The council provided the club with both a carpark and fencing for the site, and the rest of the funds required were raised via sausage sizzles, trivia nights and other assorted fundraisers, as well as obtaining a Building Stronger Communities grant and a District 9820 Grant.

The garden is now an incorporated body in its own right, managed by its own committee – including two members of the Rotary Club of Langwarrin. It is a facility appreciated by many members of the public, who visit to maintain the beds and harvest. Two garden beds are also dedicated to growing produce for local charities,

making a long-term contribution to the needy.

The garden is also used to run gardening courses through the community centre, teaching people how to create successful gardens of their own at home. In September, the community garden celebrated its second birthday with a market-style event featuring local goods and a horticultural talk.

After completing the community garden, the Rotary Club of Langwarrin decided to use its newly gained expertise to create a sensory garden at Wallara – a day care facility for disabled adults. The club was responsible for all construction and funding for the project. Through the generous donations of several organisations, and with the help of a District 9820 Grant, the club turned a wasteland into a beautiful oasis for less than \$10,000.

"Club members rolled up their sleeves on weekends to dig the garden, lay decking and gravel, and plant flowers," Linda said. "The Rotary Club of Frankston North, Vic, and

LEFT: The Community Garden behind the Langwarrin Community Centre is appreciated by many members of the public, who visit to maintain the beds and harvest.

volunteers from the public came on board to help with the more physical aspects of construction, which led to us gaining a new member – an added bonus.”

What was once a vacant concrete slab is now a serene herb and flower garden filled with plants and other objects to see, smell, hear, taste and touch. It is giving joy and relaxation to some of the community’s most vulnerable, many of who are non-verbal, with limited mobility.

The club has also sent three students to the National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) and is in the process of setting up an Interact club at the local secondary school.

“We definitely worked hard in the past few years to raise our profile in the community,” Linda said. “By being out there and doing things, we are being seen and remembered.

“Our advice is not to despair if you are a small club. You may not be building a Taj Mahal any time soon, but there are still plenty of projects possible within budget constraints to attract community appreciation and leave something lasting behind.”



Wallara clients getting hands-on in the garden.



President of the Rotary Club of Phnom Penh Metro Michie Nishiguchi and the Russian Hospital’s Infection Control Coordinator Nita Mean at the first new installation of hand basins and facilities at the hospital.

Clean hands save lives

By PDG John Kevan

The Rotary Club of Applecross, WA, was awarded a Rotary Foundation Global Grant for US\$47,000 to install hand basins and other equipment at the Russian Hospital in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Ineffective hand washing by staff, patients and visitors had increased the transmission of infectious diseases in the 600-bed hospital, leading to slower recovery times and deaths.

Club members Dr Barry Mendelawitz and PDG John Kevan visited the hospital to confirm the need for new hygiene equipment, as well as meet with hospital directors and infection control staff. They also met with fellow Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Phnom Penh Metro, the host club for this international project.

The first installation of hand basins, elbow-operated taps, liquid soap and paper towel dispensers in the hospital wards occurred on June 16, 2017. Over 300 installations were completed, using equipment and labour procured locally.

An essential part of the project was training, with extensive demonstrations and information on hand-washing procedures provided for the hospital’s thousand-strong workforce. A large poster showing the correct way to wash hands was placed on the wall above every hand basin,

reinforcing the message “Wash Hands – Saves Lives”.

Sinks, soap and paper towels were also installed at the entrances to the hospital at a combined washing facility. Visitors can now wash their hands before entering the wards and also clean any food containers they bring to the hospital with meals for patients. Increased instrument washing facilities in three surgical support areas and an upgrade of the main water pumping system were also provided.

These new facilities and hand-washing initiatives directly benefit the thousands of patients and visitors who use the hospital each year, by reducing the potential risk of infection and the transmission of diseases.

The hospital director and senior staff are committed to maintaining the supply of liquid soap and paper towels. Regular training is taking place to ensure appreciation of the importance of hand washing is sustained. The education and reporting processes established through the project are now being used as a model for other hospitals in the country.

Since the Rotary project began, mortality rates in the hospital have dropped significantly. Reinfections in the hospital and hospital stay times have also decreased. Washing hands certainly saves lives.

STANDING PROUD



THE ROTARY E-CLUB of Greater Sydney, NSW, sponsored a district grant to provide five wheelchairs for disabled youths in Lotumbe, in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Lotumbe is a remote village accessible only by canoe or forest pathways, which has personal significance to club member Lucy Hobgood-Brown, who lived there for a number of years as a child.

In the DRC, many people disabled through accidents or diseases like polio must pull themselves along the ground. Many are shunned by the community as unclean; superstitious parents even believe their own children have been cursed.

"I was teased, singled out, all alone," shared one boy, who lost the use of his legs. "I was locked in the house. I couldn't go out, and when I did, people made fun of me as if I were an animal who came out of a cage. Even my friends wouldn't support me... they couldn't deal with me. And if I wanted to go with them to play together, they told me not to come with them, to stay put."

The Rotary e-Club of Greater Sydney facilitated photographer Ken Kobre's filming of Lotumbe's disabled youths, who are featured in Ken's short video of the not-for-profit StandProud. StandProud began when Dr Jay Nash opened up his garage in the DRC to a friend who had completed studies to become a brace maker, in order to help youth with mobility challenges. Soon his home had become a rehabilitation centre – the beginning of now six StandProud centres, which have helped over 5000 young people stand up and walk.

To be rehabilitated, patients must first have their legs straightened,

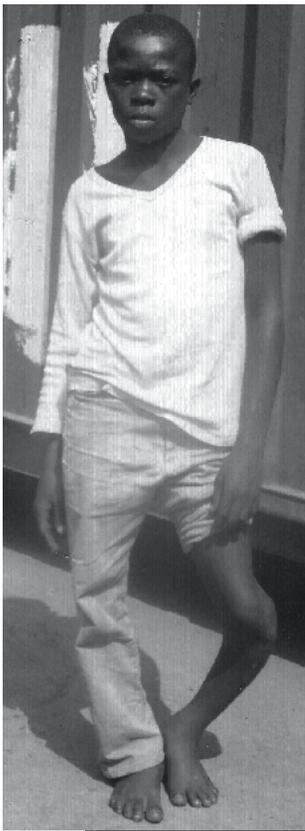
through placing a cast over them in their original position, then shifting the cast slowly into correct placement. During this time, patients require assistance moving about, and depend on being carried or wheelchairs if available.

Patients have gone from a life of exclusion and dependence to become university graduates and athletes. StandProud also pays for schooling for all patients, which is beyond the financial means of many Congolese families.

This effort was one of many facets of a long-term RAWCS project by the Rotary e-Club of Greater Sydney to provide sustainable improvements to existing health and education services for the people of Lotumbe. The club works with project partners and the community on a wide range of capacity-building projects, including women's micro-credit, sustainable beekeeping and duck egg production.

To view the video and be reminded of why Rotarians work hard to eradicate polio, go to vimeo.com/257322928.





(Photos: Ken Kobrea)



The mobile dental unit in operation.

Spreading smiles

The Rotary Club of Semarang Kunthi in Central Java was joined by the Rotary clubs of Glen Waverley and Oakleigh, Vic, to fund a project called Spreading Smiles – a mobile dental unit serving the poorer areas in and around Semarang, a city with a population of over three million.

Initially, the total project cost was around US\$36,000. District designated funds were contributed by Districts 3420 and 9810, in which the clubs are based. This was matched by The Rotary Foundation, and the clubs.

Unfortunately, due to changes in exchange rates by the time the mobile unit was ready to be purchased, another US\$7000 was required.

The project had so much merit and benefit to the community co-operating organisation, the Panti Wilasa Hospital, which was to be the beneficiary of the mobile unit, that the hospital came in and underwrote the balance.

The new mobile dental unit was handed over at an official ceremony attended by the Vice Mayor of the City of Semarang, District 3420 governor Hermanto Angka, members of hospital staff and many Rotarians. Over two hundred young children were inspected at the event, resulting in 106 extractions and many fillings.

The Rotary Club of Semarang Kunthi, buoyed by the success of the dental unit, is now working on a proposal to replace a much-used mobile library, donated over 20 years ago, with a modern vehicle. The librarian cannot wait.

ADOPT A VILLAGE PROJECT TO BENEFIT COMMUNITY

ROTARY DISTRICT 9980, in New Zealand's South Island, is the International Sponsor for the Lugo/Busukuma Adopt a Village project in Uganda, with the Host Sponsor being the Rotary Club of Kololo-Kampala, Uganda.

Adopt a Village projects focus on investing in local community members so they can work together to make improvements in their village. The role of International Sponsors is to support and encourage Rotarians and community members to make positive changes in their communities.

"Those living in Lugo are experts in their own community needs, and their actions will drive the process of improvement," explains Candace Bangura, assistant governor of District 9980.

"Before this project began, Lugo community members participated in an extensive community assessment, which led directly to the design of the project."

Leadership from the Lugo Farmers Association particularly informed the project, with members working diligently with the project committee from the Rotary Club of Kololo-Kampala to plan and implement the project components.

With a budget of US\$89,727, the project aims to address a range of needs that will benefit the whole community, including:

- Leadership training at the beginning of the project, to upskill local people and organise how they can lead the various components;
- Water needs, through bore holes, protecting spring wells and constructing a water harvester at the Lugo school;

- Health needs, via the distribution of mosquito nets and health education;
- Education needs, by providing desks and equipping the school library;
- Employment needs, by providing sewing machines and tailoring training; heifers and training from a veterinarian.

Currently, leadership, farming and community health volunteer training has been completed, with the remaining components well underway.

Investment in skill building forms the core sustainability of the Adopt a Village project, as skills gained by Lugo community members can be used to further improve the community into the future.

One such example is the training provided in sewing and tailoring, designed to prepare members of the Lugo/Busukuma community with the skills and confidence to start their own tailoring businesses. Chrisams Designs Ltd, a medium-size enterprise located at the Ugandan market, guided participants through all aspects of the industry – from sewing machine maintenance, pattern drafting and tailoring, to entrepreneurship and business skills, like record-keeping, customer care and marketing.

A number of clubs in District 9980 are involved with the Adopt a Village project, including the Rotary Clubs of Gore, Balclutha, Invercargill, Invercargill North, Dunedin Central and Winton.

Club and district funds were contributed from both Uganda and New Zealand to finance the project, and The Rotary Foundation matched those contributions with a Global Grant.



The Lugo/Busukuma Adopt a Village project in Uganda aims to address a range of needs that will benefit the community, including leadership training, water needs, health, education and employment needs and skills building.

