

Greetings,

My first RI International conference experience was exceptionally valuable! There were 20,000 attendees representing 3,752 clubs from 154 nations. I have a new appreciation of Rotary's international presence. I was standing with a group one morning waiting for the Friendship Hall (exhibits) to open and the people around me were from 10 different countries.

The following are a few of my notes from the plenary session presenters I thought worthy of sharing:

Clarissa Brocklehurst, Chief of UNICEF's Water and Hygiene Section

- 800 million are without access to water
- 3 times that number (2.5 billion) are without sanitation
- 5,000 children die daily of disease - a direct result of poor or lack of sanitation –
- the number who die is equal to the number who would die if 10 jumbo jets crashed daily.
- Program established: Taps, Toilets, and Soap
 - Educate children and adults about sanitation and hygiene.
- Improved sanitation has more impact on lives than improved water access.
- It is more about changing behavior than building infrastructure. As people are
- educated they build the demand for sanitation.
- Polio is spread through poor sanitation.
- October 15, 2008 was the first Global Handwashing Day; 78 countries and 250
- million children.
- Goal is for a new generation of children who will be stewards of clean water and sanitation.

Tom Henderson, Rotarian from Helston, Cornwall, England

- 1999 - spotted a gap in aid provision for natural disasters
- Developed the ShelterBox
 - Box with supplies for an extended family up to 10 people; includes tent, blankets, cooking utensils, water purifier, etc.
- 2000 - with Rotary Club support ShelterBox was formally launched.
- 2001 - the first boxes of aid were distributed.
- To date ShelterBox has responded to 80 disasters in 57 countries; one million people in ShelterBox tents.
- Now a global organization with staging locations around the world where highly trained ShelterBox teams distribute boxes on the ground.
- \$1,000 for one box - includes box, contents and delivery.

Polio Plus

- In response to the \$255 million Bill Gates Foundation matching grant Rotary has raised \$90,757,451.34 (as of Tuesday, June 23rd, 9:30 am - Birmingham, England time).

- Since inception of Polio Plus governmental support includes; UK / 150 million, US / 130 million, Germany / 130 million.
- Other partnering agencies; World Health Organization, UNICEF, USAID, US Agency for International Development.

Mia Farrow, UNICEF goodwill ambassador

She is working to raise funds and awareness for children in conflict-affected regions; currently Darfur and Rwanda.

- "We can measure who we are by what cannot be taken away."
- "Salvation of the world will be through humility and responsibility."
- "With knowledge comes responsibility."

Districts Awarded the RI Membership Challenge

Districts who have chartered at least 2 new clubs and have a net growth of 1,000 members. (listed by country and district #)

Korea 3620	Philippines 3810
India 3150, 3100	England 1219
Nigeria 9140	Mexico 4190
Brazil 4680	Caribbean 7020
USA 5000	

Jane Goodall, JGI (Jane Goodall Institute)

- JGI has established TACARE program - a community centered conversation approach which effectively addresses human needs while promoting conservation values.
- "We (humans) are not on this planet alone."
 - 1% difference in chimpanzee and human DNA
 - blood transfusions are possible between humans and chimpanzees
- Many young people around the world are depressed and apathetic. When I ask why, their response was they feel we have compromised their future.
- There is hope; Roots & Shoots is a JGI program establishing scholarships for young people from preschool through university and beyond - giving them an opportunity to break the barriers - to climb out of poverty.
- The human mind is highly developed because of our powerful language ability yet the planet is being destroyed.
- We have lost tribal wisdom and replaced it with short term thinking and decisions based on politics and money. We need to reconnect our heads with our hearts.
- Spend time each day to think about the choices we make; how do they impact others and our planet.

- Huge problems in the world today. To address them we need to partner with others. Teamwork is necessary.

Deepa Willingham, Rotarian

She was born and raised in Kolkata, India and came to the US to complete her graduate degrees in biological sciences and made the US her home. She is a retired administrative executive.

Deepa is the founder of Promise of Assurance to Children Everywhere (PACE Universal) a nonprofit organization that runs literacy and holistic village rehabilitation programs.

- 3 billion people in the world live on less than \$2.00 per day.
- The organization established a school for girls in Calcutta. It is now a model for schools established in Mexico and Honduras and soon Romania.
- Goal is to inspire others to undertake a systematic approach to poverty eradication.
- Extreme poverty is defined as:
 - no clean water or sanitation
 - no proper housing
 - no food
 - no health care
 - children work and girls are sold to work in factories and in the illegal sex trade

RI International Conference 2010

- Montreal, Ontario, Canada / June 20-24
- Presenters will include: Greg Mortensen, author of "Three Cups of Tea"; Steve Denne, Chief Operating Officer of Heifer International; and Robert Mazzuca, Chief of Boy Scouts

Cheers!

Next Week's Channeler: Kevin Ritchie, Membership Chair